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Kent on Sunday

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Sex offenders' register 'is a waste of time' as paedophile goes missing

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

CALLS have been made to reform the "wholly inadequate" sex offenders' register which rape charities claim does little to protect society.

It follows the disappearance of a convicted paedophile from Kent, who police say poses a risk to children and may befriend a family in order to reoffend.

John Archer Barnett, also known as John Owen, went missing in April after police officers involved in his management became concerned he was getting too close to a family with children and social services stepped in.

The 62-year-old, who was convicted in 2003 for an indecent assault on an eight-year-old boy and jailed for four years, left the Dover area, failing to tell police; something he is required to do under the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

But it wasn't until last week – almost five months later – that the force released an appeal warning the public of Barnett's disappearance and his risk to children. Police also warned that he could potentially befriend a family in order to reoffend.

A spokesman for Kent Police said it had been trying to trace the registered sex offender and that the appeal had been released when all lines of enquiry had dried up.

He said: "We made enquiries and a number of leads were followed.

"There were a series of sightings, including in Dartford and Brighton, and these were followed up. When this came to nothing we released the appeal."

He added: "This man wasn't in custody, but he didn't keep us informed of his change of address."

Barnett's disappearance has sparked calls from rape charities for more to be done to monitor such offenders.

Gravesend-based Family Matters, the

Continued on page 2



VALUABLE VISITORS

ON THE ROAD: Fiona Bruce hosts the Antiques Roadshow in Chatham – **SEE INSIDE**

FOOD

Cake craze is a tasty treat

IF you haven't been introduced to Herman yet, then it may be just a matter of time, because the craze of the 'friendship cake' is growing. In a twist on old-style chain letters, friends and family are passing on a bubbling cake mix - called Herman - in what has become a tasty hit. **PAGE 3**

DEVELOPMENT

Huge jobs and homes boost

AMBITIOUS plans for thousands of new homes, delivering up to 60,000 new jobs, were given the green light this week. The project has been plagued with set-backs for more than a decade but will transform a large part of the county over the next 20 years. For full details, see inside. **PAGE 5**

AGRICULTURE

Cows killed by exploding tree

A FARMER was counting the cost of a freak lightning strike after an entire herd was killed as they sheltered from a storm beneath a tree. The tree is believed to have exploded as it was struck, killing around nine cattle. The National Farmers' Union said such a case was extremely rare. **PAGE 3**



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Kent Weekend



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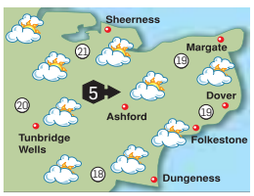
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Weather



TODAY: Sunny spells to start, but cloudy by the afternoon. Light winds. Max temp 18-21C (64-70F). **TONIGHT:** Dry with variable cloud. Min temp 11-14C (52-57F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	00.40	6.6	12.53	6.9
Margate	01.51	4.8	13.53	4.9
St Mary's	06.30	5.6	18.46	5.8

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 22C	Min 14C
Tuesday	Max 22C	Min 12C
Wednesday	Max 20C	Min 11C
Thursday	Max 20C	Min 13C
Friday	Max 21C	Min 12C
Saturday	Max 21C	Min 11C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

CONTACTS
Editor: Ian Patel
Email ian.patel@archant.co.uk
Address: Apple Barn, Smeeth, TN25 6SS
Editorial: News: 01303 817100
Leisure: 01303 817022
Sport: 01303 817177
Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising: Jobs/Notices: 01303 817056
Business: 01303 817056
Email appointments@kosmedia.co.uk
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CRIME

'Victims need to be able to have faith in justice'

Continued from front page

UK's largest, specialist counselling service for survivors of sexual abuse and rape, said the sex offenders' register was a "false hope" in keeping children safe.

Operations director at the charity, Malcolm Gilbert, said: "It is an inadequate instrument for protecting our children – its minimal restrictions are routinely flouted and disregarded.

"The police make no active effort to check those registered in their area. It is a waste of time and leads to an impression of false security. If we think these people are a threat then the actions we take should be proportionate. The whole matter should be reviewed."

He said the register was more of a "gesture" than an action as there are no requirements other than registering an address with police.

"If they were required to sign on daily, as is done with certain bail conditions, that would be something," he added.

Mr Gilbert said Barnett getting close to a family was a "classic grooming process" and that offenders play the long game, getting a family on their side, sometimes grooming any number of families at one time.

Jo Wood, trustee of charity Rape Crisis, which has a counselling service in Canterbury, said victims need to be able to have faith in the criminal justice system to protect them from danger.

"We would like to believe a convicted sex offender would be carefully and closely monitored, especially with regard to any possible close contact with children, were that relevant to the offence for which he had been convicted," she said.

"There is a high risk of a sex offender re-offending as we are as yet unaware of a 'cure' for such behaviour and we would be extremely concerned about the 'disappearance' of a convicted child sex offender and the ongoing threat he would pose to young children.

"Without a change in the law and sentencing however, leading to possible long term tagging or daily reporting, it is difficult to imagine what else could be done to protect victims and monitor their assailants.

"It would appear that an immediate response would be appropriate in a case where such an offender had failed to report or had simply disappeared and this issue should be investigated to ensure no repeat."

Barnett was last seen by his landlord on April 14 at an address in Dover.

Officers involved in the management of Barnett had become concerned he was too close to a family with children and social services got involved, following which he left the area.

He failed to notify police of his new address and is now wanted for breach of the notification requirements under the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

It is believed he is travelling around the UK, having visited London, Blackpool, Brighton, Scarborough, Dartford and Bournemouth.

Barnett is described as white, about 5ft 8in tall with a 'beer belly' and has grey receding hair and a beard. He has eagle tattoos on both arms and may be wearing a hearing aid. He is a smoker and drinks whisky. He also has an eczema-type skin condition which is visible on both forearms and hands.

A few years ago he suffered a stroke and one side of his face droops very slightly. He may have shaved his hair and beard off to disguise his appearance.

Anyone with information is asked to call Detective Sergeant Ren Johnson or Jodie Strickett on 01227 868049, or Kent Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.



ON THE RUN: John Barnett

CAMPAIGN

Fears third runway would not save estuary

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

PRESSURE is mounting on David Cameron to make a U-turn over plans for a third runway at Heathrow after a parliamentary report found capacity constraints at the airport are stifling the UK's economy.

The paper, published this week by MPs in the all-party aviation group, called for the Government to reverse its position and support expansion at Heathrow – which could put the brakes on plans for a Thames Estuary airport.

It follows growing unease within the Tories where a number of senior party members are warming to the idea of a third runway despite a Coalition agreement between the Conservatives and Lib Dems ruling out any expansion before the next election.

Tory chairman of the energy and climate change committee, Tim Yeo, this week said a third runway would "symbolise the start of a new era".

NO Estuary Airport

What are your views on the airport proposals? Share your opinion by writing to Airport Campaign, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS, or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk and put 'airport' in the subject. You can sign the petition at www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk

The report supported this, stating that "capacity restraints at Heathrow are restricting the UK's economic potential" and the country was being "left behind".

But transport secretary Justine Greening has remained steadfast in her opposition to a third runway, even hinting that it would be difficult for her to stay on the cabinet if it went ahead.

Following the publication of the report, Downing Street said the coalition would stick by its commitment that there would not be expansion.

While this growing pressure on the Prime Minister could raise hopes that plans for an estuary airport are likely to be scrapped, the report failed to overlook the controversial multi-billion pound Isle of Grain proposal.

It stated that immediate action was needed – either to increase capacity at Heathrow or build a new hub airport.

Campaigners from Friends of the North Kent Marshes said even if this latest plan by architect Lord Foster was ditched, the issue of an estuary airport was unlikely to go away for good.

"We've been fighting this for 10 years," said campaigner Joan Darwell.

"It's just going on and on – we have it hanging over us all the time. We've been through all this before. We don't know when it will stop."

While the Prime Minister battled rebelling Tories, senior party member Roger Gale, MP for North Thanet, stood firm over the need to use existing airports such as Manston.

"We need solutions immediately and one of those relatively cost-effective solutions is the development of Manston as a strong regional airfield that is potentially less than an hour from London by rail and capable of relieving the pressure on both Gatwick and Heathrow.

"This requires not a free-for-all night flying policy but a sensible and pragmatic approach to commercial and environmental needs of a kind not at present indicated either by the local authority Thanet District Council or by central Government.

"A Boris Island would take 20 years to finance and build and a Heathrow third runway, of the kind recommended by besieged environmentalist MPs, would also take far too long.

"The time has come to stop pussyfooting around, get on with it and utilise the runway and airfield capacity that is immediately available."

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FOOD

Herman's growing success causes quite a stir in the county's kitchens

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

FIRST it was the chain letter, laced with veiled threats of menace if the recipient failed to pass it on.

Then it was emails, written in a similar vein, but easier to pass on with the click of a button or consign to the waste bin.

Either way, both succeeded in being equally as irritating.

But now the chain letter has evolved... it has become edible and, in its new form, a lot less threatening.

Called Herman, this German-born friendship cake consists of a sourdough mix, which dates back centuries and was previously passed around to the sick and needy.

Today, it is passed between friends and is currently sweeping the county.

Herman comes with a set of instructions to tell you when he is hungry, what he must be fed – a mixture including flour and sugar– and how often he must be stirred.

This phenomenon is slowly, but surely making its way around Kent; with the end result proving a tasty incentive to spread the word.

And unlike the traditional chain letter, which threatens terrible things to the recipient if they fail to pass it on, the worst that could happen is Herman could 'die'.

The starter mix is made of yeast, flour, sugar and milk and the bubbling, smelly concoction must be nurtured for 10 days until it is split into five. The original 'carer' bakes their cake and passes the divided mixtures to four friends who carry on the process.

Due to the contents of the mix, there is no sell-by date and it can be passed on continuously.

The craze is gathering momentum with internet forums including Netmums and Mumsnet talking about it as well as schools getting involved.

Children at Rodmersham Primary School looked after their own Herman earlier this year before splitting him and passing him on to friends, and last month youngsters at First Steps Nursery baked several Hermans to raise money for the Pilgrims Hospices.

Food blogger Toby Adams, from Foodie Frolics, wrote about his own experience with the cake mix and Herman's subsequent "family-tree" in Kent.

He explained: "We were given Herman by some Canadian friends in a small jar simply labelled 'Herman'.

Our reporter **Marijke Cox** finds love in the form of a pot of Herman goo...

WHEN I first noticed a Herman had appeared in my kitchen, I inwardly groaned. I had tried to avoid this situation by politely declining previous offers.

But here it was, bubbling at me and willing me to stir it.

After two days of virtually ignoring it, I started to feel bad about the mixture which had somehow managed to, in my head, become a real thing – particularly since, due to my lack of stirring, it had grown and grown until it had virtually consumed the tea towel draped over it.

At this point, 'it' changed to a 'he'.

So I started to nurture the smelly mixture and, sadly, would find myself enquiring about his condition when I wasn't there: "Have you stirred him? Has he been fed?".

On the ninth day of him sitting on my sideboard I 'fed' him and split him into five, ready to pass him on.

I fed and baked my own portion and, true to the accounts of Herman owners before me, it was one of the most delicious cakes I have eaten.

I didn't even feel bad about putting what had become a kind of pet into the oven.

Now my colleagues are all breeding their own Hermans and by all accounts have become just as attached.



JOINING IN: Herman cake is fun for all the family

"After the confusion lifted, we worked our way through the 10-day schedule and developed an almost human relationship with the bubbling cake mix.

"After stirring and feeding him for almost two weeks we got to the final stage of separating Herman up to give to others and baked the rest.

"It was truly delicious. Herman now has a small family tree in this area and this continues to grow as friends of friends keep passing on the Herman goodness."

Mr Adams said the end result was a "true culmination of the labour of love put into Herman".

Those who haven't heard or seen a Herman will likely have one in their kitchen soon.

For a Herman recipe see www.hermanthegermanfriendshipcake.com – or simply ask friends of family.

TRAGEDY

Cows killed by an 'exploding tree'

A FARMER is counting the cost after a freak bolt of lightning caused a tree to explode, killing a herd of cows sheltering from the storm beneath it.

The farmer, who did not want to be identified, confirmed the cattle were all killed by the act of nature at the farm in Shepway.

Speaking to our reporter they said: "It killed the lot. It's very upsetting."

A source within the agricultural industry explained: "About nine cows were killed in one go.

"The herd had been sheltering under the tree and then it just exploded because it was struck by lightning.

"Tree trunks can explode if struck by lightning when the sap is exposed to an extreme heat and becomes high-pressure steam. It literally makes the tree blow up."

Although tree explosions are rare, it happens more if the trunk is in a rotten state.

National Farmers' Union livestock adviser for the south east, James Osman, said: "This incident is clearly very upsetting for the farmer involved, although it is a freak natural occurrence.



UPSETTING: Such a tragedy is a rare occurrence

"Cattle are known to sometimes shelter under trees during bad weather; however, it is important to note that situations like these are extremely rare."

Texas A&M University agricultural expert Brent McRoberts added: "Unless there is a barn nearby, livestock are out in the open during thunderstorms, so their chances of being hit are greater."

Some 19 cows also died recently whilst hiding under a tree during a heavy storm in Canada, and a herd of 16 bullocks were killed under the shelter of trees in East Lothian in 2009.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Goldfish are dumped

MORE than 50 domestic goldfish have been found dumped in a river.

The fish were found in a stream beside the Great Stour in Chartham and removed by the Environment Agency.

Fisheries officer Steve Smith said: "When people clean out their ponds, it is important the fish are only put into ornamental ponds and not rivers and lakes. Even healthy looking fish can carry disease and kill fish in lakes and rivers."

Games prove big hit

THE British Transplant Games have been hailed a huge success after thousands cheered on almost 600 athletes in Gillingham.

The event, to be held in Sheffield next year, brings together those who have undergone a transplant and is designed to highlight the benefits of registering as an organ donor. The four-day event came to a conclusion last Sunday, just in time for the start of the Paralympic Games.

One Direction in town

TEEN heartthrobs One Direction shot a video for upcoming single Live While We're Young in a field in the county last weekend.

The X Factor stars, turned chart-toppers, were seen jumping on bales of hay and sharing a paddling pool with a host of female models.

However, the group's record label were keeping tight-lipped about the exact location of the shoot this week.

The boy band have sold a remarkable 12 million records in the space of a year, after going down a storm in the US.

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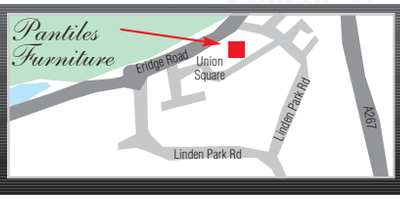
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DEVELOPMENT

Brownfield site to be transformed by tens of thousands of homes and jobs

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

AMBITIOUS plans for thousands of new homes in north Kent have been given the go-ahead, delivering up to 60,000 new jobs and a major boost to the area.

An agreement was reached by government ministers, Dartford and Gravesham councils, Kent County Council and developers Land Securities this week in a historic step forward in what has been a project plagued with setbacks for more than a decade.

The deal involves the development of around 22,600 much-needed homes in the area over the next 20 years, bringing a brownfield site back into use and with it creating up to 60,000 jobs.

The first phase is at Eastern Quarry in Ebbsfleet and will deliver 1,500 homes as part of wider plans for Kent Thameside, with a further 3,000 homes expected to be complete by 2030/31.

This is expected to unlock the development of 22,600 homes and around one million square metres of commercial development across the Kent Thameside region.

Builders could be on site as early as next summer, with the first homes set to be completed by December 2013.

Leader of KCC Paul Carter said getting the significant development under way signals the council's continued drive to increase construction activity in Kent.

"We have real growth ambitions and this site signifies our intent to unlock the potential of the Thames Gateway," he said. "Where sites are stalled we will talk to developers about ways of releasing sites in the short term."

Developers Land Securities had invested more than £100 million in developing the Eastern Quarry site. However, plans were delayed amid concerns over the cost and the need for further investment in transport improvements.

But a £116m homes and roads programme was drawn up by councils, ministers and developers, which has helped get the project moving.

The package includes major junction improvements at the A2 by Ebbsfleet and Bean – with work due to start imminently – as well as work on the A226 London Road/St Clements Way junction.

Enhancements will be made to Dartford town centre and Rathmore Road Link in Gravesend, and there will be a dualling scheme on the A226 Thames Way in Ebbsfleet.



FUTURE: Around 22,600 homes and 60,000 jobs will be created at Ebbsfleet

KCC, Dartford and Gravesham councils worked with the Department for Transport and Highways Agency to agree how funding could be unlocked. It includes a £25m contribution from Land Securities through the completion of 4,500 homes on the site by 2020, £13m support from the Homes and Communities Agency and a proportion of KCC's New Homes Bonus payments.

Dartford and Gravesham councils will also ensure that contributions from Land Securities and other sites are provided to support the transport programme.

Leader of Dartford Borough Council, Jeremy Kite, admitted it had been a "long road".

"This finally seems to be our opportunity to build a great community and top quality housing for a new generation of Dartford families," he said.

"Housing for children of local people is a real responsibility and Eastern Quarry provides a great setting for young people to build their lives."

PARALYMPICS

Race track ready for cyclists

LEGENDARY racing circuit Brands Hatch will replace its high octane thrills and spills with a very different form of high-speed action this week as thousands flock to watch the Paralympic road cycling.

In one of the most significant international sporting events it has held since it last hosted a Formula One Grand Prix back in 1986, the circuit will welcome 225 athletes from 45 nations over four days of race action.

Starting on Wednesday and running until Saturday, the 8km track will host 32 races and time trials as athletes compete for gold.

Thousands will line the grandstand within the venue, with thousands more expected to line streets around the venue as the racers take to the open road for part of the races.

Incredibly, among the competitors will be former four-wheel race ace Alex Zanardi.

The ex-Formula One racer saw his life forever change after a smash during a Champ Car race in Germany. The Italian lost both legs as a result of the crash in 2001. But he has got to grips with a three-wheeled bike powered by his hands and will be hoping to win a medal.

The venue has been described by the International Cycling Union as the "best paracycling venue of all time" and the British team are expected to be contenders for medals after the Games in Beijing 2008, which saw a haul of five gold and two silvers.



READY: Paralympian Rachel Morris with Lord Coe and Brands Hatch's Jonathan Palmer

Capacity inside the venue has twice been expanded and demand for the £10 tickets has accelerated after the nation was caught up in excitement generated by the Olympics.

Roads around the venue will be closed while racing takes place – a move which has angered local traders, left fuming they will be inconvenienced for such a period.

A spokesman for Sevenoaks District Council, said: "We're encouraging everyone to come and support these inspirational athletes. Spectators without tickets can use the free park and shuttle service at Wrotham Hill and get a great view of the action from the roadside.

"Alternatively, LOCOG have recently released an additional 2,500 tickets per day for this event. Tickets enable holders to reserve a parking space at Brands Hatch and to enter the venue to view the start and finish line and podium."

■ **Coverage of the Paralympics is being shown on Channel 4.**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hospitals in fire drama

AN investigation has been launched after fires were sparked in both the Kent & Canterbury and Medway Maritime hospitals this week.

Emergency services responded to fires in Gillingham on Wednesday and Canterbury on Thursday.

Patients were evacuated and no-one was injured.

It is not yet known if both fires are linked and an investigation is under way.

City venue shuts down

A POPULAR Canterbury venue run by the team behind the successful Lounge on the Farm festival has been forced to close after failing to come up with £5,000 in overdue rent.

The Farmhouse in Dover Street has been a well-known pub, restaurant and live music venue in the city for the last four years, but admits a difficult summer has forced it out of business. Management insist it will have no impact at all on the festival.

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DEVELOPMENT

State-of-the-art campus delayed

K COLLEGE has slammed the brakes on plans for a multi-million pound campus in the centre of Ashford – just weeks after confirming it is to shed some 140 jobs.

The college, created through the merger of West Kent and South Kent colleges in 2010, had planned to redevelop its site at Elwick Road, with work due to have started earlier this year.

But it confirmed this week that as part of a wide-ranging review of its 'property strategy', plans were being postponed.

Work is now not expected to begin for at least two years. And when it does, it would appear to be on a smaller scale.

It will come as a huge blow to Ashford, which had seen the creation of an education hub in the town centre as a vital piece in the jigsaw of overhauling the heart of the town.

K College says it is undergoing major developments of its curriculum offer for the new academic year and is completing a staff restructure and review of its estate.

A college spokesperson said it was reviewing its financial position in the current economic climate "to ensure it is able to deliver the most appropriate curriculum in the long term" in the five towns it serves – Dover, Folkestone, Ashford, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells.

Principal of K College, Bill Fearon, said: "A new campus remains a key priority but we are now unlikely to be able to undertake a new build for at least two years.

"We have to budget within financial cuts and constraints that were not in place when we first embarked on the project."

K College senior managers are reviewing the options of an interim move to the centre of Ashford, working with Ashford Borough Council.

Mr Fearon continued: "The high cost of our campus in Jemmett Road means we are looking seriously at other locations. There is the opportunity to utilise a range of good, cost effective alternative accommodation. The support from the council is a major benefit."

All proposals are being reviewed and decisions will be made with the approval of K College governors, and the Skills Funding Agency – this is likely to take several months.

EDUCATION

English pupils deserve the chance of a re-sit, insists academy head



By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A LEADING head teacher has called for a nationwide re-sit of the English GCSE exam in the wake of the grading scandal.

David Day, principal of the Isle of Sheppey Academy, said all pupils should have the opportunity to take the exam again in a one-off special re-sit in October.

He has appealed to the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL), which is compiling a dossier of evidence submitted by hundreds of schools to hand to exam regulator Ofqual.

It emerged last week that grade boundaries in GCSE English had been raised significantly for pupils sitting assessments in June compared with those sitting early entry in January and March.

Figures show that pass-rate grade boundaries had been raised by as much as 10 per cent.

Government insiders have suggested the move was because January boundaries were too low.

Mr Day said: "I have suggested a one-off opportunity for a national re-sit in October and these results should count towards the pupils' grades and league tables. Special consideration should be given to allow this one-off re-sit."

Around a quarter of schools in the country, including the Isle of Sheppey Academy, saw the number of pupils awarded A*-C in GCSE English drop by five per cent since last year.

Mr Day, who in the past has won praise from Ofsted, was brought in to take over the Isle of Sheppey Academy last year. He questioned the fairness of raising boundaries between January and June: "How can you have a standard for early entries in January and March and then introduce a tougher standard in June?



DEMAND: David Day

"There is a moral obligation for something to be done. Teachers say they are demoralised, and pupils will feel hard done by and face the prospect of a re-sit to try and get the standard they need. Some maybe didn't get a place in an A-level placement because they didn't get the grade they needed in English."

Mr Day said his school saw a one per cent improvement in the number of pupils achieving five A*-C grades including English and maths, pushing the rate up to 36 per cent.

But he admitted that had the English mark – which saw a five per cent drop – been as expected before last week's scandal, it would have pushed the number of children achieving five A*-C grades including English and maths above the 40 per cent national target.

Mr Day said he believed it was down to education secretary Michael Gove's desire to reintroduce O-Levels.

"This has devalued GCSEs," he said.

ASCL said a number of Kent head teachers had contacted the organisation concerned about the English results.

Kent branch secretary Ian Bauckham, who is head of Bennett Memorial School in Tunbridge Wells, said the matter needed investigation.

General secretary Brian Lightman added: "Exams have not been made more rigorous in a way young people and teachers can prepare for. What appears to have happened is that, halfway through the year, it was decided too many students were going to get a C grade in English and so the boundaries of the exam were pushed up.

"Standards in schools have not changed one iota. It is the grading that has changed.

"It is morally wrong to manipulate exam grades in this way – you are playing with young people's futures."

A spokesman for exam body Ofqual said that grade boundaries "change from exam series to exam series".

They added: "Decisions on grade boundaries are made after the assessments have been taken, based on all the available evidence. In summer, more information was available about performance across the qualification than in January.

"Exam boards considered this and made decisions accordingly, to make sure the final qualification grades were comparable with last year's.

"We are confident standards have been maintained and that the grades awarded are right."

CLEARING PROVES A SMOOTH PROCESS AS HUNDREDS CLAIM LATE UNIVERSITY PLACES

UNIVERSITIES have recorded little change in this year's clearing process, despite the looming introduction of the new sky-high tuition fees.

From this September, universities will be allowed to charge up to £9,000 every year. All four of the county's universities will be charging £8,300 or more.

But this has seemingly had no impact on this year's clearing, a process where students who receive unexpected grades or have no placement are able to get a university place.

A spokeswoman for the University of Kent, based in Canterbury, said the numbers had been "very buoyant".

"It's been a positive clearing," she said. "Everybody was wondering what was going to happen, but for us it's been a good year."

The University of Greenwich said an "unprecedented" amount of young people had been accepted through clearing at its Medway campus, having gained top grades.

"Our admissions tutors have been impressed by the very good quality of applications received," a spokesman said. "There has been a lot of interest in biomedical sciences, sports sciences and pharmaceutical sciences."

University for Creative Arts, which has campuses in Maidstone, Rochester and Canterbury, saw hundreds accepted through clearing following results.

Figures for Canterbury Christ Church University were not available.





HERITAGE

Huge crowds expected at dockyard for arrival of the Antiques Roadshow

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

TV FAVOURITE the Antiques Roadshow rolls into Chatham this week, hoping to emulate the remarkable discoveries the BBC experts made the last time the show came to Medway.

Chatham's Historic Dockyard hosts the hugely popular filming this Thursday, September 6, with presenter Fiona Bruce joining the likes of Paul Atterbury, Henry Sandon, Hilary Kay and Geoffrey Munn pouring over the collection of items brought along by members of the public.

The last time the roadshow was in the area was back in 2007 when Rochester Cathedral hosted the TV cameras.

Back then, there were a host of notable finds, among them Napoleon's toasting glass worth nearly £5,000, a landscape painting by the artist Alfred Munnings, valued at £20,000-30,000, and a silver steeple cup dating back to 1619 and worth up to £60,000.

Series editor Simon Shaw says: "As a television producer, it's a scary prospect when we turn up for a day's filming and have no knowledge of what might turn up.

"I often look at the queue first thing and say a quiet prayer that there really are interesting pieces in all those bags. Amazingly we still keep finding fascinating pieces – and some of the best aren't necessarily the most valuable."



ON TV: Fiona Bruce and the Antiques Roadshow team will be at Chatham's dockyard on Thursday

The show says it is expecting visitors from across the south east to attend the show.

During the shooting of one episode, a couple flew in all the way from New Zealand to reveal a brooch – only for them to be told its value did not match the cost of the air tickets.

Meanwhile, it is not too late for large items to be valued.

A spokesman explained: "Last time we were at Rochester there was also a mahogany sideboard found in a junk shop and worth £2,500 and a TV cabinet bought from Harrods in 1936.

"Both of these would have been brought in on the roadshow's furniture round.

"Back in the office the team are compiling a folder containing letters and emails from people in the area with furniture and large items too big to carry. Items in the past have included paintings, large pots, bedsteads and even a military cannon.

"In the days before the show, two of the team will arrive in the area with the folder and visit as many of the people who have contacted the show as possible.

"Some of these people will have their items transported to the roadshow by the team and a few lucky ones may even end up being filmed on the day."

If you have a large item you would like valued, send details and photographs of the objects to: Antiques Roadshow, BBC, Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS8 2LR, or send an e-mail to antiques.roadshow@bbc.co.uk with the information.

CRASH

Westwood Cross death

AN INVESTIGATION into how a man died after a crash in the car park of the Westwood Cross shopping complex in Broadstairs has been launched by police.

The man, thought to be in his 60s, had been unwell before the car he was driving at low speed hit a parked vehicle at 9.45am on Monday. He was rushed to hospital but died soon after.

CRIME

Rock thrown at car

MOTORISTS are being warned to be on the lookout after a rock was hurled at a car in Thames Way, Gravesend, leaving the woman behind the wheel shaken.

PC Andy Owen said: "I would urge parents to speak to their children so they are aware how dangerous it is, and the consequences of being arrested and dealt with for criminal offences."

FIRE

Haystack inferno

SIX fire engines and dozens of fire fighters spent hours tackling 250 tonnes of baled straw which had caught alight in Wainscott last Sunday.

Crews were called to Islingham Farm Road at 9pm on Sunday to battle the flames and were still at the scene dampening down by 9am the following morning.

It is not known what caused the blaze.

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LEISURE

Pictures: JULIAN ANDREWS/ NOPP





GOLDEN GREATS: Olympic gold medallists Jessica Ennis and Mo Farah's success at the London 2012 Games has inspired more people to visit sports centres and join clubs in the county

Golden summer triggers burst of interest in county's sport centres

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

EUPHORIA over the Olympic Games – and now the Paralympic Games – has seen the numbers of people using sports facilities across the county rise.

With Team GB storming to success during London 2012 – and the Paralympic GB team set to emulate its success – there has been a rise in those using council-run centres and a big spike in those joining gymnastics clubs.

Gymnastics was one of the surprise success stories for the British competitors, spearheaded by the likes of Louis Smith and Kristian Thomas, as well as Beth Tweddle.

The head coach of East Peckham-based Weald of Kent Gymnastics Club, Jacky Leman, said: "We have seen a massive increase. We're only a small club and I have had 24 new girls and about 10 new boys joining, which is a huge increase. We have had to put on three new classes.

"Typically, we have only had 20 per cent of our membership being boys, but ever since the Team GB boys got their medals, there has been an increase in interest."

Swimming has also seen an increase in numbers with pools across the county seeing an upturn.

Active Life, which runs the council-owned facilities in Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay, says it has enjoyed the benefits of a glorious summer of sport.

Marketing manager Nigel Collins said: "We have been much busier this year compared to last and the weather and the Olympics have helped.

"We did an open day at our centres for people to try out our facilities free of charge and that was very popular.

"I would say overall it is very positive and it's got to have had a good effect. It got the country inspired and people will vote with their feet."

But not all areas have seen an upturn.

Leisure contracts manager at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Martin Guyton, said: "It is too soon to tell whether the Olympics has had a lasting effect on visitor numbers to our leisure facilities.

"It is pleasing to see that, following such an inspiring sporting event as the Olympics, the general trend is upwards, however this could be attributable to a number of factors, including the recent warm weather and marketing campaigns undertaken to promote the facilities, and not just the Olympics."

And, despite the triumphs of our cyclists, dedicated clubs say they have not seen a surge in members despite the number of cyclists on our roads rocketing.

Hugh Roach, secretary of Gravesend Cyclists' Touring Club, said: "We've had no new members than a normal summer when the weather improves, so I'm not sure it has filtered through yet.

"We find that people think about it for a little while first and then so many other factors come in, like the weather. There's certainly generally a lot more interest in cycling and obviously that'll spin off over time."

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CRIME

OAP kicked in the head by thug during attack

AN ELDERLY man was left seriously injured after a vicious thug pushed him to the ground and kicked him in the face in an attempted robbery.

The 70-year-old victim was returning to his car in Broadhurst Drive, in Kennington, Ashford, at around 8.30pm on Tuesday, August 21, when he was approached from behind and a demand for money was made.

The pensioner then felt a blow to the back of his head and he fell over. He was kicked several times in the face and head before the offender ran off towards Faversham Road.

He was left with a serious eye injury.

Detective Constable Heather Moore said: "We are appealing for any information or witnesses.

"Maybe they did not see the attempted robbery, but perhaps they saw a man running away near the junction of Broadhurst Drive and Faversham Road."

Anyone with information should contact DC Moore at Kent Police on 101, giving reference ZY/23499/12 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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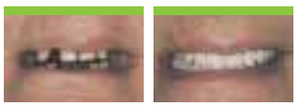
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News

MEMORABILIA

Auctioneers prepared for sale of rare football items

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

A HOST of top football memorabilia, including a signed programme by legendary Manchester United manager Sir Matt Busby and a souvenir edition of the Evening Standard celebrating the 1996 World Cup win, are among a host of items going under the hammer this month.

They form part of a collection up for sale at Grand Auctions in Folkestone.

Included is a ticket stub for what was once dubbed "the match of the century" when Billy Wright's England team of 1953 were given a rude awakening by an inspirationl Hungary side featuring the likes of Ferenc Puskás.

Hungary's 6-3 victory forced a radical shake-up in the way England coached its footballers.

Other tickets include those for the 1956 friendly against Brazil.

Fans can also bid for a 1983 Milk Cup final programme signed by Sir Matt Busby, together with a menu and seating plan for special guests on the day.

Jonathan Riley, from the auctioneers, said: "Sir Matt Busby created the Manchester United legend and aura of attacking football. This final was one of the few occasions the team achieved anything much in the dark days before the arrival of Alex Ferguson."

The auction will be held on Wednesday, September 19 at 6pm in the Folkestone Enterprise Centre, Shearway Business Park.



GOAL: Ticket stubs to historic games up for sale

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Fleetdown Community Centre,
Swaledale Road, Dartford, DA2 6JZ

Monday, 10 September, 2 to 4pm
Millmead Sure Start Centre,
Dane Valley Road, Margate, CT9 3RU

Monday, 10 September, 7 to 9pm
Sundridge Village Hall, 203-209 Main Road,
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You can sign up to become a member and also take part in our public consultation, which runs until Monday 22 October.

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COMMUNITY

Pledge to buy back fire stations for the benefit of communities

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

COMMUNITIES across Kent were dealt a devastating blow earlier this year when village fire stations were forced to close as part of cutbacks.

But now a flurry of parish councils are rushing to buy the buildings to use them to benefit their towns or villages.

The latest council to make the move is Rusthall, near Tunbridge Wells, which has plans of turning its station into council offices and a youth centre.

Rusthall will join St Margarets, near Dover; Brenchley and Matfield council, near Tunbridge Wells; Halling, near Rochester; and Sturry, near Canterbury, all of which have expressed interest in buying their stations.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) has offered the unused buildings to the councils – if they can raise the funds to buy them.

Rusthall Parish Council now has six months to find the £100,000 needed to purchase the station on Lower Green Road.

Parish chairman Jenny Blackburn said the chance to buy the station is a "once in a lifetime opportunity" but the funds will be hard to find.

She said: "We want to have a place in the heart of the village, that is visible and not in a church hall.

"We also only have one youth club in the village but it is very small and does not provide a lot of services for children. This is a large village of 6,000 people. We really need to be providing more for secondary school children, so that they have got somewhere to go, to be with their friends, in a safe environment."

The council is hoping a government grant will provide the cash, but they won't know until they discuss it further in a meeting later this month.

Although the village is supporting the youth centre idea, the council is still keen to hear from residents on how they think the space should be used.

Across Kent, the parish councils are using the Localism Act's right to bid for community assets to secure their village's future.

Ms Blackburn said: "Not a lot of buildings are going to become available. It's a great opportunity for communities to acquire these buildings."

Halling council fought long and hard to save their station and were devastated when they heard it would be closed.

Council chair and ex-fireman Daryl Palmer said: "The station has been here for 107 years, it is a massive part of village life. It was real wrench when it was closed down."

The council has plans to use the building for council officers and possibly a small museum as well as considering it for a police or fire safety drop in.

Council clerk Trudi Smith said: "We would give it back to the village. It is a big part of this area. It is the heart of the community."

The councils are hoping to secure the buildings or they may be sold off and become housing.

KFRS director of service delivery, Steve Griffiths, said: "We are pleased we have been able to work with parish councils and communities to develop additional facilities. We do have a duty to achieve best value and we have taken that into account when setting the disposal values."



FOR SALE: Transforming key fire sites into valuable community facilites is a hit

TELEVISION

Hotel Inspector's return

TV'S self-styled hard-nosed Hotel Inspector, Alex Polizzi, was seen paying a return trip to the county this week as she again locked horns with a Margate hotel owner.

And despite admitting Ms Polizzi reduced her to tears on screen, the owner of the Walpole Bay Hotel had nothing but praise for the businesswoman, who has developed a reputation for putting failing businesses back on the right track.

Jane Bishop was featured on the Hotel Inspector: Revisited, shown on Channel 5 this week.

The 61-year-old said: "Off camera, she's wonderful. But when the cameras go on she is a total professional, it's sometimes hurtful."

Tears and showdowns were shown on our screens last Thursday when the pair conflicted about the direction of the hotel and the artefacts contained within the hotel's museum. Ms Polizzi had originally tried to get Mrs Bishop to close the museum to focus on her business, but after the first programme, hundreds of viewers sent in more things to go with the Walpole Bay Hotel's collection.

Mrs Bishop added: "You wouldn't believe the publicity – it's worldwide. We've had three years of publicity and it's been repeated in Europe 20 times.

"We're not business people and we're not pretending to be. We're living our dream of restoring this building. We've never had any formal training so it was most helpful on the business side of things, but her concept of the overall hotel and mine are worlds apart."

■ **See the show on Channel 5's catch-up service, Demand5.**

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HISTORY

Book celebrates bravery of our Victoria Cross winners



AWARDED: Charles Lucas was awarded with the first ever VC for his swift action to save the lives of those on a boat struck by a shell during the Crimean War

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

TEN brave heroes, awarded the highest military accolade, the Victoria Cross, have been honoured in a new book.

The book, Ten Brave Men and True, is written by Richard Snow, and explores the life and deaths of the men, who all have links to the borough of Tunbridge Wells.

Retired Mr Snow has spent the past five years painstakingly researching and writing their stories to create the finished product, of which all profits will be donated to charity Help for Heroes.

The book focuses on the lives of the men, both before and after they received their Victoria Cross (VC) for bravery or 'valour in the face of the enemy'.

The award was created by Queen Victoria and only 1,356 have been given since 1856.

All ten of the men in the book were born, lived, or died in the borough of Tunbridge Wells.

The book is especially poignant as the first ever VC was awarded to one of the men featured – Charles Lucas, who is buried in Mereworth, near Maidstone.

Rear Admiral Lucas was given the honour when a shell landed on the deck of the boat he was on, Hecla, in 1854 during the Crimean War.

Mr Snow said: "Everyone else panicked but he coolly picked it up and threw it overboard. It went bang as it hit the water and he saved the ship."

Lucas later lived in Culverden House, Tunbridge Wells,



INSPIRATION: John Brunt

where the old Kent & Sussex hospital now stands.

Mr Snow said Lucas later lost his medal on a train to Scotland and had to be issued with a replica one.

The book is the author's second title, the first, All for Valour, focused on the story of John Brunt VC, who also features in the new publication.

Mr Snow said: "The idea for the book came when I was shopping in Waitrose in Paddock Wood and saw a pub called John Brunt VC."

To research Captain Brunt, Mr Snow interviewed 30 people he went to school with who described him as a "daredevil".

Brunt set his sights on the VC after he was awarded the Military Cross.

He gained the VC for fighting off German enemies during the Second World War. Brunt sadly died the day after his act of bravery, aged just 22, and never knew he was awarded the honour.

The full list of men commemorated in the book are: Rear Admiral Charles Lucas, Major General Matthew Dixon, Lieutenant Colonel William Temple, Lieutenant John Grant, Captain Douglas Belcher, Rev William Addison, Acting Captain Eric Dougall, Lieutenant Colonel William Clark-Kennedy, Captain Lionel Querипel and Captain John Brunt.

Mr Snow managed to get a member of each of their families to write a foreword and donate pictures to the book.

Mr Snow, who was fundraising director for Hospice in the Weald before he retired said: "The book shows the people behind the VC and is full of local links. I have sold lots of copies so far, it's fantastic.

"The men are absolutely fascinating. They are great, brave people with great stories. It is unusual to have ten VCs in one town. I think it is really quite an honour for the borough."

The author has got his nephew, TV historian Dan Snow, to write the foreword. His cousin is Channel 4 news presenter Jon Snow.

Mr Snow said: "It is marvellous the money is going to Help for Heroes. It is very apt – I just wanted to make some money for a very worthy charity."

The costs of getting the book on the shelves were met by sponsors – Denise Barnes, Cripps Harries Hall, Knight Frank Estate Agents and Alex King, deputy leader of Kent County Council.

Mr Snow will be signing copies of his book, which is available in west Kent bookshops, at Waterstones in Tunbridge Wells on September 1 between 11am and 3pm.

AWARDS

Stylist snips his way to awards

A HAIRDRESSER is out to prove he is a cut above the rest after being shortlisted for a prestigious title at a national awards ceremony.

Gary Russell, artistic director at The Chapel salon in Tunbridge Wells, is one of six finalists for the Southern Hairdresser of the Year category at the British Hairdressing Awards.



Mr Russell, pictured, was shortlisted after submitting a number of photos which demonstrated some of his work.

The two-time former finalist said he was chuffed by his inclusion in the final six and it capped a good year for him professionally.

He said: "I was delighted when I received my letter telling me I had made it to the finals.

"To be recognised by your peers as being one of the country's leading hairdressers and being involved in the British Hairdressing Awards is a wonderful feeling and a great achievement."

Mr Russell will find out if he's done enough to claim the prize at a glitzy awards ceremony in London on November 26.

Photos of his hair designs, which are inspired by the work of designers such as Vivienne Westwood and Alexander McQueen, will be reviewed by leading hairdressers and industry journalists.

Publishing director of Hairdressers Journal International, Jayne Lewis-Orr, said: "Each year the entries in all categories push the boundaries and are truly inspirational. British hairdressing is perceived throughout the world as being the best, and these awards recognise and reward creativity and excellence in all hairdressing skills."

Mr Russell is Kent's sole representative among the nominations.

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ENVIRONMENT

Have your say on the path to stretch along our famous coastline

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk



A PUBLIC consultation has started into plans for Kent's first stretch of unbroken coastal trail.

The Ramsgate to Folkestone route will form part of the English coastal path – a continuous stretch around the entire country's coastline, aimed at providing improved access for walkers and boosting tourism.

Once completed, people will be able to walk uninterrupted around England's picturesque coastline.

The proposed route for the first Kent stretch, a 37-mile trail from Ramsgate to Folkestone, will run close to the towns of Sandwich, Deal and Dover and pass through a variety of coastal habitats and cliff scenery

The following stretch, likely to be completed over the next five years, will run the remainder of the Thanet coastline and along the north Kent coast through seaside towns such as Herne Bay and Whitstable, and then on to Swale, Medway and the Thames Estuary near Gravesend and Dartford.

Natural England – the Government's independent advisor on the natural environment – and Kent County Council have met landowners to 'walk the course' for where the new route could go between Ramsgate and Folkestone.

A series of drop-in sessions are being held this month for people to view and discuss maps. They will run from noon to 5.45pm at Dover library on September 18, Deal library on September 19 and Ramsgate library on September 27.

The Natural England consultation runs until Friday, November 9.

KCC cabinet member for customer and communities, Cllr Mike Hill, said the new national trail will help show off the very best of Kent's historic and natural coastline.

He added: "When complete, the route will deliver significant social and economic benefits to our coastal communities and be a great recreational resource for the people of Kent.

"These consultation events are a great opportunity for the wider public to have input into the proposals, we urge residents and landowners to have their say on this potentially great asset to our county."

Over the next 10 weeks, organisations, farmers, residents, visitors and businesses are being invited to have their say as part of the consultation.

Area manager for Natural England, James Seymour, said: "It's important that all responses are taken into account and we look forward to hearing people's views.

"We have had discussions with landowners and key organisations along the proposed route; their input has been essential and helped shape the draft proposals."

The first stretch of coastal access was approved in Weymouth and opened on June 29, in time for the Olympic sailing.

See www.naturalengland.org.uk for more information and to comment.



Pictures: P JERREAT/P MILLER NATIONAL TRUST

GO FOR A WALK: Deal seafront and the White Cliffs of Dover are both a part of the trail set to link up the entire coast

GAMBLING

Do you have winning lottery ticket?

THE search is on to find the winner of a £73,263 National Lottery prize after they failed to claim their cash windfall.

It is thought the winner may have gone on holiday and forgotten to check their ticket.

The ticket had matched five numbers and the bonus ball in the Lotto draw on Saturday, August 11.

While organisers are not revealing where exactly the ticket was bought, it is known to be from the Ashford area.

The winning Lotto numbers on that date were 1, 5, 14, 18, 34, 44 and the bonus ball was 23.

The lucky ticket-holder has until Thursday, February 7, to claim their prize. If no-one comes forward with the winning ticket before the prize claim deadline, then the money, plus all the interest it has generated, will go to the National Lottery Good Causes.

A National Lottery spokesperson said: "We're desperate to find this mystery ticket-holder and unite them with their winnings – this amazing prize could really make a huge difference to somebody's life. We're urging everyone to check their old tickets again or look anywhere a missing ticket could be hiding.

"Try checking in the pockets of clothing, in wallets, bags and down the back of the sofa – someone out there could literally be sitting on a fortune. We have the Champagne on ice and our fingers crossed that the lucky winner comes forward to claim their win."

Anyone who believes they have the winning ticket for any of the National Lottery draws within the 180-day deadline should call the National Lottery Line on 0845 910 0000.

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News

FUNDRAISING

Take a leap of faith with a 10,000ft skydive for charity

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk



CHALLENGE: Tandem skydivers can support children's charity

TWIDDLING your thumbs and pondering how you could make your life a little bit more exciting? Then how about hurling yourself out of an airplane 10,000ft above the Kent countryside?

It may not be everyone's cup of tea, but thrillseekers or those simply wanting to challenge themselves have the chance to leap out of their comfort zone when a special charity skydive takes place next month.

Held as part of a series of similar events taking place around the UK, Headcorn Aerodrome will fly fundraisers into the skies on October 28 before letting them jump out, attached to their instructor.

Those taking part will find themselves tumbling at speeds of up to 120mph, before a parachute carries them gently back to Earth.

It is already proving a big success, with a date previously arranged for October 7 now fully booked.

All those taking part will be raising money for the Children's Trust, a national charity which provides specialist care for children with complex health needs.

It also runs the UK's largest residential rehabilitation centre for acquired brain injury.

A spokesman said: "A deposit of £60 is required and we ask for a minimum sponsorship amount of £450.

"If you reach the target of £450 you will be refunded your deposit, making your tandem jump from 10,000ft free.

"All equipment will be supplied on the day."

To register, or to find out more, contact Anna Baldwin on 01245 422554 or visit www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk/skydive to download a registration form.

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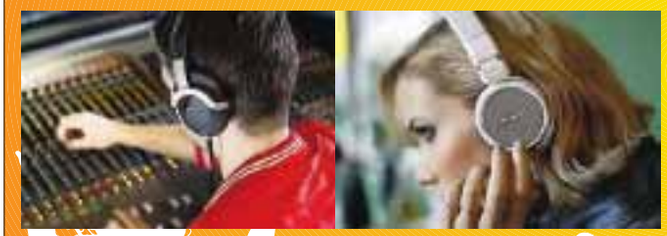
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Advertisers Announcement

Bishop of Rochester Academy to offer Music Scholarships from September

The Bishop of Rochester Academy, in Magpie Hall Road, Chatham, announced the introduction of 'Music Scholarships'. 25 Music Scholarship places are available to students joining the Academy in Year 7 from this September, 2012.

Any child who is interested in music may apply for one of these twenty-five Music Scholarship places at the Bishop of Rochester Academy each year. Parents who have seen their child develop an interest or talent in music are urged to ensure that their child benefits from this opportunity by applying for a Year 7 place at the Bishop of Rochester Academy from this September onwards.

As Music is one of the Bishop of Rochester Academy's 'Specialisms' the Scholarships are intended to support and enhance the standard and variety of music-making at the Academy.

"The Academy already has a strong musical culture and there is a lot of talent amongst the current students. Our students really enjoy performing." said Mr Boxall, the Academy Principal. *"And, as parents will know... learning Music helps children with their learning of Maths - it's very important that students achieve well in the Core academic subjects. The Academy's other 'Specialism' is Maths & Computing, which helps focus on Core Skills."* he added.

Students attending the Bishop of Rochester Academy through a Music Scholarship will enjoy a variety of benefits, which may include such things as free music lessons (instrumental and/or singing), free use of a musical instrument to take home for practice, free music-related trips, involvement in musical performances, school uniform, and a music-based curriculum.

Applicants will be considered on the basis of their genuine interest in music, their enthusiasm and their likely contribution to music-making at the Academy in the future. Successful students will be expected to attend ensemble or choral rehearsals and to take part in concerts and/or other musical activities.

"*The Scholarships are for students who are serious about music - whether that's composing music, using the latest technology in music-editing software soon to be available at the Bishop of Rochester Academy; playing a musical instrument - traditional or modern; being in a band or part of an orchestra; or singing - choral or pop.*" said the Academy's Musical Director, Karen Fowler - who is co-ordinating the Scholarships.

"*There is infinite variety in music-making in the world today, and through our Music Specialism at the Bishop of Rochester Academy we are aiming to help the young people of Medway to develop their talents in music, supported by these new Scholarships.*" she added.

music colleges

Maths & Computing



For more information, or to apply for a Music Scholarship place at the Bishop of Rochester Academy for your child, parents/carers should contact the:

Bishop of Rochester Academy
East Campus
Magpie Hall Road,
Chatham, Kent, ME4 5JB.
Tel: 01634 845196 email:
office@BoRAcademy.org
or visit the Bishop of Rochester Academy website:
www.BoRAcademy.org

SAFETY

‘Baywatch’ steps up as RNLI team make a splash on our busy beaches

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

IT’S been a summer of extremes, from almost non-stop torrential rain to a scorching heat wave.

But in true British spirit people have packed their bucket and spades and continued to hit the beach.

And whether rain or shine, the new team of RNLI lifeguards in Thanet have been there every day to make sure the thousands of beachgoers stay safe.

With more people going in the water and the recent tragedies in other parts of the UK, including the deaths of four in a canoeing accident in Scotland this week and a four-year-old boy who fell in the sea in Somerset last month, lifeguards are becoming a vital part of the beach scene.

Kent’s highly-trained lifesavers have been patrolling 10 of the county’s most popular beaches, located on the Thanet coastline.

In previous years the service was run by Thanet Leisure Force, but the lifeboat charity took over in May to create a seamless rescue service from beach to open sea.

Undergoing intensive training before the summer season started, including fitness, rescue skills and casualty care, every member of the team had to prove their worth before being taken on and awarded their internationally recognised lifeguard certificate, which also gives them the added responsibility of being ambulance co-responders.

This means being called upon to respond to emergencies within 400 metres of their patrol zone to provide vital assessment and treatment before the arrival of paramedics.

Extensive first aid kits, including defibrillators, oxygen therapy and spinal boards are at every beach unit.

“They go through an intense training period in casualty care, competency, fitness, running, swimming and other vital training,” said lifeguard manager Rory Smith.

“They are co-responders to the South East Coast Ambulance service so if, for example, someone is having a heart attack in the beach car park they would be first on scene to tend to them while the ambulance is on its way.

“Having this status offers enhanced protection to people in the vicinity of our beach patrols.”

Through the summer, the lifeguards have dealt with a variety of first aid incidents, from near drownings to heat exhaustion, to cuts, bruises and more serious injuries, including a dislocated shoulder.

They were also on hand to offer advice to beachgoers.

“Ninety-five per cent of lifeguarding work is educating beach users,” said Mr Smith.

“The lifeguards offer advice to members of the public to stop them getting into trouble. We’ve had a good response from people. I’ve got a really good lifeguarding team here.”

The RNLI charity worked with Thanet District Council, which pays the lifesavers, to get the new lifeguard service in place.

They work closely alongside the charity’s lifeboat crews.

The RNLI has been rolling out its lifeguarding scheme countrywide with 180 beaches now patrolled.

Cabinet member for tourism at Thanet council, Iris Johnson, said she was pleased with the new service.

“We’re so proud of our beautiful beaches and are thrilled that this new five-year contract will help to enhance lifeguard provision around our coast,” she said.

The lifeguards patrol from 10am-6pm, seven days a week through the summer until September.



HEROINE: RNLI lifeguard Lauren Munson is ready for action at Margate

Pictures: PAUL JERREAT





READY: Margate lifeguards Liam Fricker and Lauren Munson are trained to tackle any problems faced on the beach



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News

CONTEST

Custard pie contest attracts the stars as it returns 'home'

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

IT has its roots firmly in the county's history, and has been a source of entertainment since the days of silent movies.

And now the humble custard pie is being thrown back into the limelight as the county once again plays host to the official championships.

The World Custard Pie Championship has been held in Coxheath, near Maidstone, since 1967.

Drawing its inspiration from the likes of Charlie Chaplin, organisers are expecting teams from around the world to descend on the village, with a sprinkling of celebrities taking part this year too.

Rory McGrath and Will Mellor will both be participating in the contest, joined by camera crews from Channel 5, shooting their exploits for new TV show Rory and Will's Champions of the World.

An event spokesman said: "The championships were originated by Cllr Mike FitzGerald to raise funds for the village hall. It continued for many years before disbanding and returning in 2007. We're delighted it's back in Maidstone and proud we've inspired similar events around the world.



PIE TIME: From left: Cllr Dave Naghi, chief pie mixer; Mike Fitz Gerald with the trophy; and organiser Cllr Brian Mortimer

"Will and Rory are on the hunt for global recognition and have set out to be champions of the world. They realise this cannot be achieved unless they can become the World Custard Pie champions.

"We are restricting entries this year to the first 16 teams.

"Rory and Will will join a team so if anyone is interested they should get in touch."

For more details, see www.worldcustardpiechampionship.co.uk.

THE RULES

- Each team member has five custard pies in the first round, seven in the semi-final and a maximum of ten in the final, all of which they must hurl at their opponents.
- Points are scored for accuracy of throw: Hit in the face – six points; Near miss, shoulder height or upwards – three points; Body hit – one point; Two consecutive misses – minus one.
- Judges can award up to five points for amusing and original throwing techniques.

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HERITAGE

Beaney back to its best after a £14m overhaul

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk



IT is one of Canterbury's most breathtaking public buildings.

Yet for the past three years its ornate exterior has been covered up as a massive £14 million refurbishment programme transformed it. And on Wednesday it will be unveiled to the public for the first time.

The Beaney, as it is affectionately known, has long housed the city's main library in addition to museum and exhibition space in its central position on the pedestrianised High Street.

But three years ago its doors shut as city officials unleashed an extensive renovation on the site in order to bring it into the 21st century, while retaining the splendour of a building constructed in 1897.

Among the work taking place was the replacement of woodwork on the exterior that had been damaged by the death-watch beetle, as well as re-carving one of the pair of griffins which guard the main entrance.

But it is inside where the work is most obvious. Ceilings have been restored, flooring repaired and partitions removed.

It will house a new and extended library, exhibition galleries, education facilities and a programme of events designed to appeal to all age groups. Exhibits will include antiques from Egypt and ancient Greece, along with other Anglo-Saxon finds from archaeological digs.

Along with the completion and opening of the new Marlowe Theatre, the city council says it underlines a commitment to culture within the city.

Head of culture and enterprise, at the city council, Janice McGuinness, said: "Culture runs through the veins of a city like Canterbury and is a key part of its identity. Its reputation was built on heritage but it's now about contemporary culture too.

"The Beaney is a perfect blend of both, with its striking new extension and beautifully restored facade and interior of the original building."

The centre will also feature art pieces, including work from Canterbury's most famous artist Thomas Sidney Cooper.

The building takes its name from its benefactor, Dr James George Beaney, who died in 1891 and left money in his will to the city of Canterbury. Previously known as the Beaney Institute, it will now be known as the Beaney House of Art and Knowledge.

To celebrate the opening, visitors can enjoy live music, workshops and tours next weekend, September 8-9.

Also taking place is the Wise Words Festival, which aims to bring communities, authors, poets, dancers, and performance artists together.

The Beaney refurbishment project was funded by Canterbury City Council and Kent County Council and also received £7m from the Heritage Lottery Fund.



STUNNING: The newly refurbished Beaney House of Art and Knowledge has been transformed during its time under the scaffolding

CYCLING

Pedalling an unusual line in art

PEDAL power has inspired what council chiefs have dubbed "an iconic art installation" on the roof above Gravesend's council offices.

Painted in bright green, the recycled bikes are part of a series of works commissioned by Kent County Council to celebrate the county hosting the Paralympic Games at Brands Hatch.

They have been installed across Kent and will be on site until the end of September.

More than 150 people attended a two-day workshop held at the Cyclopark in Gravesham in July to work with the reCyculture team to create art from disused bikes.

The team also collected a wealth of stories, thoughts and ideas about bikes and cycling from those who attended, which has been made into poems, films, audio tracks and web pages, to form the virtual aspect of the installations.

And those above Gravesham Borough Council's Civic Centre have already started catching the attention of passers-by.

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, the council's lead member, business and partnerships, said "We are very excited to be part of this, especially in view of Gravesham's proximity to Brands Hatch and the Paralympic cycling events held there.

"The reCyculture project involves the whole community, whether they take part in one of the workshops, cycle themselves, or just take in the spectacle as they go about their business."

See www.recyculture.co.uk for more details about the project.



Picture: RAY GIBSON

GREEN: Re-cycling bikes above civic centre

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KENT **REMEMBERED**



SMOKING: The Rochester Sweeps Festival, which parades through the town, dates back 100 years

Festivals keeping alive county's rich folklore

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

ENGLAND enjoys a rich tradition of folk festivals and beliefs – possibly more than any other country.

Many of these can be traced back many hundreds, or even thousands, of years and often their actual origins are shrouded in mystery.

Despite that, many are still observed, in one form or another, even in the 21st century.

Yesterday's Country Customs: A History of Traditional English Folklore by Henry Buckton delves into the world of mummers, tree dressers, beaters of the bounds and cheese rollers as well as looking into festivals and traditional games and gatherings.

Published by The History Press the work examines some of the events and beliefs which give Kent its unique place in this country's folklore.

Mr Buckton said: "In some ways they are a living semblance of the nation's history.

"They stem from every phase of our antiquity and embody all the peoples who have traditionally enriched our culture, from the Celts to the Hanoverians.

"They encapsulate into the nation's popular psyche some of the greatest moments from our past, and celebrate best-loved heroes or infamous villains."

A Jack in the Green – as immortalised in song by Jethro Tull – was once a key component of May Day parades up and down the country.

The Jack itself is described as



"a large framework structure swathed in lush green foliage and spring flowers, which is sometimes surmounted by an elaborate floral crown and then worn or carried by a person – who is completely hidden by the leaves and has their face painted green".

The purpose – as far as anyone can ascertain – was to suggest that a bush or small tree had become sentient.

Its origins are unclear and although the Jack sounds vaguely pagan it may be less than 500-years-old and have its origins in spring parades by milkmaids which often featured flowers.

Kent has a couple of Jacks which make their appearance on the first day of May.

In 1976, one was created for the Whitstable Folk Festival and now it is escorted from the Duke of Cumberland pub by a procession of dancers as it makes its way to the harbour.

A larger event takes place in Medway over the May Bank Holiday weekend.

The Rochester Sweeps Festival traditionally commemorates the one day each year sweeps could spend away from brushes, chimneys and soot.

Dating back more than a 100 years it used to feature a parade through the city and also included a Jack.

But the passing of the Climbing Boys Act – which regulated child labour – meant the whole chimney-sweeping business changed and the festival went into decline.

The last one was held in 1900 prior to its revival in 1981.

The Jack itself came back two years later with the organisers drawing on accounts by Charles Dickens, who witnessed the original events.

On May Day morning the Jack is 'woken up' at dawn by dancers and sweeps on the slopes of Blue Bell Hill – as is recorded in contemporary 19th century accounts.

It then takes part in a parade on Monday, starting in the grounds of Rochester Castle.

Writing the introduction to the book Robert McDowall, president of The Folklore Society, says: "All publications that stimulate interest in English customs past and present are welcome because they stimulate the public interest in folklore. Yesterday's Country Customs is an important contribution to maintaining the general public's awareness of the importance of country customs to folklore and folklore traditions in England."

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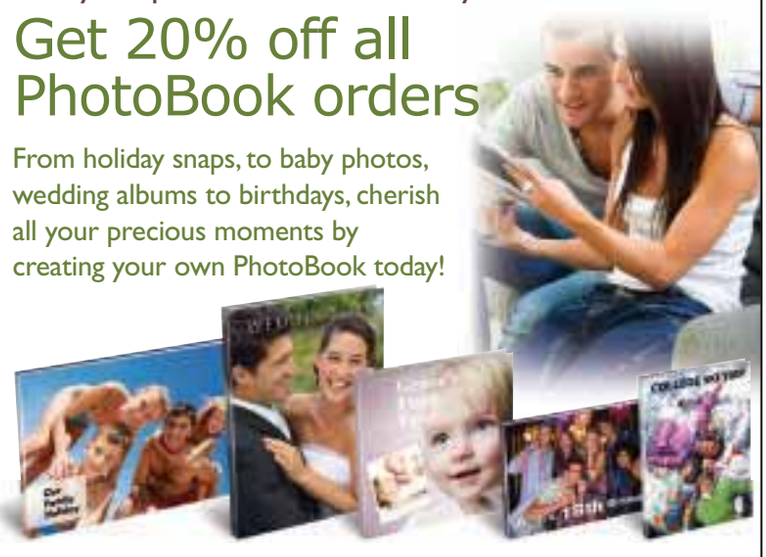
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OPINION

Take a healthy interest in NHS

David Griffiths explains why it's so important that the community gets involved in the running of the county's new foundation trusts

THERE is no subject more important to us than health; our own, our friends' and families' and that of our communities.

And as a nation we are proud and protective of the organisation which helps us to look after our health, the NHS. The fantastic section of the Olympics opening ceremony involving NHS staff and patients demonstrated that pride very well.

The NHS has moved a long way from "doctor knows best", with patients having little say in their healthcare. Patients are more at the forefront of deciding what is best for them and there is also greater choice. And it is not just individual patients having more say in their own individual care – local people are increasingly having more involvement in what services are provided and how they are delivered.

To drive forward the involvement of communities, the government has directed that all NHS trusts should become foundation trusts. They will still be NHS organisations, employing NHS staff. However, they will have greater freedom to meet local needs and will be held to account by local people who become trust members.

This is an exciting and important time for Kent Community Health NHS Trust. We deliver the majority of NHS care people receive in their own homes and in community settings right across the county.

We employ 5,400 staff including doctors, community nurses, health visitors, physiotherapists and a range of health professionals. We are responsible for the 12 community hospitals around the county, which are very dear to the hearts of our communities. We spend £213m of public money to provide NHS care to you, your family and community.

We have been given the go ahead to consult with the public on our plans to become a foundation trust and to start recruiting people to be members. We aim to have an average of at least 500 members in each of our 12 council districts initially and eventually many more. These members will be eligible to vote for a council of governors from among themselves who will hold the trust's board to account.

Of course the amount of time members will spend being involved with us will vary. They could receive regular information about the trust, or they could take part in consultations. They could get more involved and become members of focus groups, for example, or even stand for election as a governor. The choice is theirs.

The most important thing is that as many people as possible, from all communities and backgrounds, become members. The more people who are involved at a local level, the more we will be able to develop and design health services to meet the community's needs.



The more people who are involved, the more we will be able to develop health services

I invite everyone to attend one of our 12 public meetings being held during September and October. One will be held in each of the 12 district or borough council areas, so there will be one near where you live. The first meeting takes place at Fleetdown Community Centre, Swaledale Road, Dartford, on September 5, from 2-4pm.

All the meetings will be advertised in this paper and are also at www.kentcht.nhs.uk/foundationtrust along with details about how to take part in our public consultation and sign up to become a member. Or call the trust membership office on 01622 211970 for more details.

The consultation runs until Monday, October 22, 2012.

■ **David Griffiths is chairman of Kent Community Health NHS Trust.**

KOS COMMENT

Uniform demands are too much right now

THERE is nothing more sobering for parents, nothing more likely to see the euphoria of a holiday wiped away, than going shopping for a school uniform.

Not only does it involve a scrum in a bid to find those elusive trousers or jumper in the right shade of grey, but when you return home with bulging shopping bags you realise you've spent about the equivalent of that week you've just enjoyed in Majorca.

Good, then, that there is pressure from the Citizen's Advice Bureau for schools not to strike exclusive deals with certain stores and expect parents to pay through the nose. Yes, insist on the highest level of smartness and presentation. Just don't insist parents are forced to pay a fortune to do so.

All hail our Herman

HOME baking is often perceived as the preserve of those with a strong grasp on culinary skills and the patience of a saint.

The Herman friendship cake craze may just change that. We at KOS have already become hooked. We think many more will fall under Herman's spell too over the coming months.



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Field of poppies in Boxley by Ivor Dennis

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History could repeat itself

I HOPE the 3,000 people that signed support for a heritage theme park in Margate are going to go every couple of weeks – because it will fail if not.

Youngsters want state-of-the-art rides, not junk bought from failed theme parks.

An historical theme park next to a modern theme park might work. I hope it's successful because Margate needs something badly.

Adrian Ottley, Birchington

Manston's on wrong path

ONCE Manston has been established as London's overspill airport, how long before it becomes London's de facto main airport?

It has long been claimed that night flights are essential for Manston's survival, so the pretence of the odd late running arrival is laughable.

You only have to look at the 'Why Not Manston' website to see how spurious the figures are. Once the precedence has been set, it's 'chocks away'.

A couple more runways, an aeroplane overhead every 90 seconds, 24 hours a day, massive increase in pollution, 60-mile of queues of traffic to/from London. Just think of the unnecessary 'airport miles' because of Manston's location on the wrong side of London.

Now if it were 60-odd miles north or west that would be a different matter.

Bill Stevens, Faversham

Get your facts right first, sir

HERE in Ramsgate we are used to various politicians and developers trying to tell us we should welcome aeroplanes thundering over our heads all through the night.

These range from some that are genuinely concerned Manston airport could create much-needed employment in the area; those that think no further than wanting a cheap and convenient base for their annual holiday flight; and the misguided and ill-informed like the leader of Kent Conservatives who famously forgot Ramsgate when he claimed there was nothing between Manston and the sea.

I'm afraid that Nicholas Reed, who you gave space to last week, appears to fall firmly in the latter category.

Manston has had at least two commercial operators – Wiggins and Infratil – with worldwide experience of airport operation.

Both operators took on the airport knowing there was an existing ban on night-time flying, with partial relaxation for passenger flights from Europe and to America.

Neither of these managed to attract a major passenger airline for any length of time.

Infratil currently have the airport up for sale.

Two airline operators have attempted to run commercial passenger flights from Manston, both using different strategies and both heavily subsidised by the airport.

EUjet ran flights to many European destinations which was great while it lasted, but sadly failed in bankruptcy.

Flybe was more selective in its chosen routes, but once again failed after a few months, quoting Manston's poor catchment area rather than lack of night flights as the reason.

So we are left with the possibility of freight flights, taking the sort of traffic that the other bigger airports reject. Inflicting loss of sleep for many for the sake of importing fruit and veg from Africa and the Middle East seems much less attractive; much less attractive because so little local employment would be created.

The best evidence of likely job creation comes from Kent County Council's bid for multiple millions from the Regional Growth Fund. The bid was to improve rail links, create a Manston station and subsidise a daily feeder flight to Schiphol airport in Amsterdam, all to create an estimated less than 30 jobs.

Needless to say, the Government rejected the bid – apart from welcome rail improvements cutting the journey time to Ramsgate.

So, we have an airport struggling to find a niche market, that even if successful would devastate Ramsgate and the far more secure prospect of jobs from the visitor economy.

If only people like Mr Reed would study the brutal economic facts rather than wishful thinking.

Cllr David Green, Mayor of Ramsgate

It's parking for the select few

(RE: Medway Maritime car parking). So Mark Devlin is now saying that those patients on income support, jobseekers allowance and pension credit will now get subsided parking?

When did this come in?

I, for one, have never heard of this before. This is a sop to justify the full charge for Blue Badge holders.

Further, I venture to suggest that this group of patients are the least likely to have a motor vehicle in the first place.

G Crawford, Gillingham

Limit to what is expected

I AGREED with your correspondent that the imposition of a 50mph speed limit on the road near Yalding is inappropriate, but for completely different reasons and with great concern at the apparent misunderstanding from a driver.

The letter reads as if 50mph is an increase on the previous limit when it is, of course, a reduction from the national limit for single track roads of 60mph.

If the imposition of a speed limit is widely perceived to indicate that a road has been officially assessed as safe at that speed then it is counter-productive in achieving its presumed intention of improving road safety.

The appropriate speed for country roads varies rapidly from stretch to stretch and a corner where only 20mph or less is sensible can be followed by a straight open road where 60mph is not inappropriate.

To impose a limit of 40 or 50 to cover both is pointless.

If the corner is difficult to judge then it should have a triangle warning sign with an advisory speed limit below.

An artificially low limit on the straight is likely to be ignored where there is no visible reason for it and encourage non-compliance with limits when they really are sensible.

All these limits do is dupe people into thinking the road is suddenly safer and allow officials to claim they are doing something about road safety.

I am not a member of any transport lobby, just an ordinary car driver who understands that speed limits do not make bad drivers good drivers, but can make good drivers illegal drivers.

Leave the speed limits alone.

Peter Jull, Deal

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Editor: Ian Patel
Address: Apple Barn, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SS
Editorial:
Telephone 01303 817100;
Fax 01303 817002;
Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising:
Telephone 01303 817150;
Fax 01303 817001;
Email sales@kosmedia.co.uk

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Edited by **Adam Aiken**

Lenders box clever with fixed rate mortgages

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC



Q WE HAVE been looking into getting a fixed-rate mortgage while interest rates are so low, but all we can find are loans that last for just two or three years and then go onto a higher variable rate.

Do you know of any fixed-rate mortgages that last longer?

A MORTGAGE lenders think the same as you – that interest rates will eventually rise.

This is why you want a long-term loan at a rate fixed now, and for exactly the same reason, lenders will not offer more than a few years at today's rates.

The best I can find for you is a mortgage with a rate fixed until 2017.

There are three big lenders that go this far – Nationwide, HSBC and Natwest. But they all have drawbacks.

Nationwide will advance up to 70pc, but the interest rate is 3.39pc.

HSBC's rate is lower at 2.99pc, but it will lend only up to 60pc.

Natwest charges 2.95pc and also lends only up to 60pc maximum, and the arrangement fee is a huge £2,495.

Q A FRIEND died some years ago who had promised to leave me something in his will.

I have received nothing and each time I raise the matter with the solicitors and executors I am told that the will has "not gone to probate yet".

A NOT everyone makes a will. Lots of people do not leave enough to make a will worthwhile or they decide that if they die intestate – without a will – then their family will receive everything anyway, so they do not bother.

If you are sure your friend left a will, then according to the Courts Service: "You should normally expect to find the probate record within the first year or two after the date of death, and if you have not found it within three years, you can usually assume that probate was not necessary."

When an application for probate is made, the will is held by the Probate Registry and is available for public inspection. So, despite what you have been told, your next move should be to check whether an application has been made. Call the Probate Registry Postal Searches Department on 0113 389 6133 for details; there is a small cost for this.

If a search produces nothing, instruct a solicitor to contact the solicitors who are administering the estate.

As a possible beneficiary, you have the right to know where you stand.

Q MY previous employer and I paid into a Santander pension plan for me, but since 2005 I have worked for an employer with its own pension scheme.

I still have £28,000 sitting in the Santander plan, earning about £50 annual interest.

Santander says my money can be transferred only to another pension fund, and a financial adviser quoted fees of £1,000 a year for managing it.

What do you advise?

A HAVE you asked your current employer whether the £28,000 could be accepted as a top-up payment into its pension fund?

This would be the simplest option.

If this is not possible, consider starting a self-invested personal pension (Sipp).

Low-cost Sipp managers include Hargreaves Lansdown (0117 980 9926) and Sippdeal (sippdeal.co.uk). They let you decide where your money is invested, whether it is in shares, a deposit account or something different.

Do not give up, though. A return of £50 on capital of £28,000 is not acceptable.

Q I HAVE a younger sister and an older brother. If our parents leave no will, who inherits their house? Is it my brother, as the eldest?

My brother and I are both married, but our sister lives with our parents.

Does this make a difference?

A YOU would inherit in equal shares. Age differences, or living in the house, would not alter your equal rights.

Q OUR daughter is getting married next spring. After the floods and torrential rain seen this year, we want to insure against bad weather forcing a change of plans.

How do we go about this?

A A WEDDING insurance policy can cover your choice of risks, including bad weather or floods that cause a postponement or damage.

Big names in this type of policy include Weddingplan (0844 412 3115) and Debenhams (0844 573 5975).

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Taking new 'app-roach' to getting car insurance

Your smartphone could soon help you to cut your car insurance premiums. **ADAM AIKEN** reports...

THE latest breakthrough in the world of car insurance technology is being given a test drive, with safe drivers set to make significant savings on their annual premiums.

Telematics – which until now has involved a 'black box' being fitted to a vehicle – is a form of motor insurance that offers tailor-made premiums based on a driver's individual behaviour. Drivers are rewarded for sticking to the speed limit and how they do things such as corner and accelerate.

The growing popularity of telematics was highlighted recently with the news that Insurethebox – one of the biggest players in the black box market – had sold its 100,000th policy.

But Aviva has now unveiled a new piece of technology that needs only a mobile phone, and which monitors your driving for just 200 miles.

The company says that drivers could save up to 20per cent thanks to this new technology, which is called Rate My Drive and comes in the form of a smartphone application.

After monitoring your driving for 200 miles, it will turn the data into an individual score that will help determine your premiums.

"We believe this innovative use of smartphone technology will benefit all safe drivers, regardless of age or gender," said Aviva retail director Steve Treloar.

"Unlike traditional black box telematics solutions, the Rate My Drive app needs only a small amount of data to create an individual driver profile. And because the app is free to download and uses the customer's own smartphone, there is no need for motorists to have a black box installed in their car."

All drivers who complete the Rate My Drive app trial will be given feedback on their driving as well as a quote.

And for motorists worried that their poor driving will hit them in the pocket, Aviva has pledged that poor scores will not result in their premiums being hiked. Those drivers will simply not be eligible for a discount.

Sharon Flaherty, head of content and social innovation at Confused.com, said the development symbolised the changes within the insurance industry as it sought to take advantage of technological advances.

"When it comes to motoring, although telematics-type devices have existed for years, they are now becoming mainstream due to various factors," she said.

"Rises in car insurance premiums over the past couple of years have meant drivers are seeking alternatives to aid them in cutting motoring costs, prompting the insurance industry to hunt for solutions."

Aviva has been carrying out internal trials over the past few months, and the insurer is now looking for motorists to help trial the technology.

At the moment, the technology is available only for people with Android operating systems on their smartphones, although other operating systems will join the party at some point in the future.

Mr Treloar said: "We will ask those helping us to shape this new proposition to tell us what they think of the app and what improvements could be made to benefit the customer."

If you are interested in taking part in the trial, visit www.aviva.co.uk/ratemydrive.



ON THE ROAD TO HI-TECH SOLUTIONS

TELEMATICS has been around for some time, but it has really taken off over the past couple of years.

Whether Aviva's Rate My Drive smartphone application is the next big thing will become clear over the coming months, but there is no doubt telematics is here to stay – news that should be welcomed by safe and reliable drivers.

Insurethebox, a leading provider of black box policies, said its research showed that telematics encouraged better driving and led to cutting the number of accidents involving young motorists by up to 40 per cent. Its findings were based on analysing more than 300 million miles of driving data from its customers.

Insurethebox policies involve drivers buying a fixed number of miles. A black box linked to GPS satellites is installed under the dashboard and monitors the car's movements.

If the vehicle exceeds its allocation, the policyholder can buy additional miles, although that may not be necessary if the motorist has driven well.

Drivers can also win extra miles of insurance based on the safety of their motoring. The data is used to help calculate renewal premiums, with price cuts for the best motorists.

Insurethebox said nearly two thirds of its customers saw their renewal quotes cut by an average of more than 20per cent after a year with the black box provider.

"We are delighted with these results because, apart from enabling cheaper motor insurance, the main benefit to society of telematics is that it should improve driving behaviour," said Insurethebox chief executive Mike Brockman.

"Our data prove conclusively that this is more than just a theory – it really does work."

Sharon Flaherty, at Confused.com, said: "We should expect car manufacturers to make cars with telematics devices as standard.

"Aside from the fact they can give personalised car insurance premiums based on the driver's behaviour – instead of general risk factors such as age, postcode and convictions – telematics double up as trackers so cars can be found if they are stolen. It makes sense that telematics technology will make its way into our lives on a more frequent basis."

INDEPENDENT **TRADERS**

Genuine sense of community spirit can shine through by Loving Local

KENT is a vibrant county when it comes to shopping at independent retailers, many of whom add character and charm to towns, cities and villages alike.

These hard-working business-owners are relying on their local communities to keep them strong and retain spending power within close proximity.

Independent retailers complement the high street's larger chains as well as contribute to local causes, increase employment and support each other during difficult economic times.

In a survey carried out through social media, Hilary Steel, founder of Kent Independent Traders (KIT), recorded that seven out of 10 consumers stated that "customer service provided directly by business-owners made them feel valued", while nine of of 10 business-owners said "the face-to-face contact with their customers made them strive to continually improve both quality and service".

Kent is rife with quirky and unique businesses that add value to their immediate location.

Maidstone, Tenterden and Cranbrook are known for their onus on independent trade. From unusual boutiques to local-produce- suppliers, there is a sense of community that offers customers more choice while giving something back to their area.

Loving Local isn't just about enjoying the diversity of our high streets and shopping areas – it's also about using local suppliers and trade for all your needs.

From hairdressers to printers, beauticians to carpet-suppliers,





LITTLE GEMS: Kent is home to many varied independent retailers who add value to their local high street, with many providing bespoke services to their customers

window-repairers to builders, choice exists and in a buyers' market that makes the whole buying experience much more enjoyable.

By supporting independently-owned businesses you are helping maintain the sense of community that may have been forgotten with the fast-paced changes that have taken place over previous years.

We may have superseded the bartering culture that was predominant in local communities many years ago, but we can maintain a spirit of local loyalty and continue to improve the county's economy by considering increasing our local spend.

Purchasing experiences are enhanced with direct contact where businesses take ownership for their products, services and customer retention. Buyers have a voice, which should be heard in cities, towns and villages across the Garden of England.

Have you received exceptional service from an independently-owned business in Kent? Give something back by nominating them for the prestigious Kent Independent Trader People's Choice Award, where they could win a business package worth up to £1,200. Simply phone 01622 370929 with their details before Tuesday, September 4.

This event is supported by Archant KOS Media, publisher of this paper.

Kent Independent Traders (KIT) is a community for business-owners in Kent, celebrating the passion and hard work of independents in Kent.

KIT is hosting an awards ceremony to reward the efforts of diverse businesses throughout the county on Thursday, September 20, in Bar 10 in Maidstone. Tickets for the awards can be bought online at www.kentindependenttraders.co.uk/2012-awards.

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You can phone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**.

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Growing agricultural business

This week **Nick Ames** focuses on an innovative move to rebrand Kent and its rural business as an overall concern in an effort to attract inward investment from new sources. Traditionally, the county has been one of the most important in the UK for agriculture and horticulture – surprisingly, perhaps, it would rate in the FTSE 100 if the figures were added together. We also take a look at how those who work the land are being urged to push for a greater say in its management.

A DRIVE to sell Kent's agricultural and horticultural industry across the world is to be launched in October.

The formation of Kent Rural plc was announced at this year's county show and a working group is looking at how the county can obtain a greater part of the international marketplace.

It will be looking to promote all aspects of rural business, from conditions, climate and soil to an expert workforce and long experience of excellence in produce and livestock.

Among those working on the project is the High Sheriff of Kent, Michael Bax, who has many years' experience of rural businesses.

"The annual turnover of the county's agricultural and horticultural business is around £500 million," he said. "If Kent Rural plc was a real plc, it would be ranked at around 60th in the FTSE 100 Index, which is quite impressive."

Bax says he is working to encourage investment in rural business by companies that have not traditionally been associated with the countryside.

These include firms working in the fields of storage, transport, water-management and packaging.

"The economy has been going through tough times," he said. "But I would like to see companies not previously involved with rural businesses coming to work with a sector which has come through the recession.



"Kent is the first county to go ahead and market itself in this way, so we are at the cutting edge of the business.

"Traditionally, the county is one of the most important in Britain when it comes to agriculture. The good soils and the climate combine to provide excellent conditions for fruit, hops, vegetables – although that area is slightly in decline due to imports – wheat, barley and livestock.

"But agriculture has been an inward-looking business and we want to reach out to other areas and bring in new investment.

"One of the things which has benefitted us is the expanding populations and changing tastes in countries such as India and China.

"Farmers used to produce a surplus which would be swallowed up in things like the so-called butter mountain. Now that surplus is exported. There is demand for UK produce from Asia. Not only are there many more people to feed, they are getting a taste for our produce. Where populations used to eat rice, now they want meat and bread.

"During the late 80s and 90s, farms were breaking even at best, but because of these factors most are in profit.

"Then there is the increasing demand for local produce, which is welcome."

Bax said a change in the demographic make-up of farmers had given the industry a chance to progress.

"We have also seen a period when many farmers were getting close to 60. Well, now they are retiring and giving younger people the chance to run the businesses.

"Technical advancements have made it possible to regulate spraying and fertilising of crops on a metre-by-metre basis and most machinery is now highly computerised.

"Young people take to that sort of thing like ducks to water – and they are also extremely good at marketing themselves, which is increasingly important if you are looking to increase your share of the market itself."

Kent Rural plc will be launched at the East Malling agricultural research centre on Friday, October 26.

HIGH SHERIFF'S EXPERIENCE EMBRACES THE LAND

MICHAEL Bax was installed in the post of High Sheriff of Kent on April 1, 2012.

The post is largely ceremonial but also concerns itself with law-enforcement and the judiciary.

Bax has spent his business career advising farmers and landowners in Kent and East Sussex and is senior partner of the BTF Partnership, a land agency based at Challock.

He is a former pupil of King's School, Canterbury, and qualified as a professional associate of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors in 1977, having attained a degree in estate management.

Bax spent his early career with Prall, Champion and Prall in Tonbridge, becoming an equity partner in 1979. Then, following a merger in 1984 with Porter and Cobb,



he took charge of agricultural and property matters at the newly-created Cobbs Property Services.

In 1986 Cobbs was taken over by General Accident and Bax was appointed director of agriculture and forestry for the South East region. In 1988 he set up practice as a sole practitioner. A year later he was joined by an equity partner to create Bax Standen.

Since 1998, after a reorganisation of the partnership, the practice traded as Bax Thomas French. Following a merger with two further firms – a commercial-property practice in Canterbury and a project-management team in Hadlow – the company is now BTF Partnership and employs some 20 people at offices in Challock, Hadlow and Canterbury, advising farming clients and businesses across Kent and beyond.

Bax runs his own 225-acre farm between Ashford and Tenterden, including a 120-acre woodland grant scheme. He and wife Jan have two children, William and Sarah, and a granddaughter, Tabitha.

Put your rural knowledge to good use by supporting nature partnerships

THE Country Land and Business Association is urging farmers and landowners to become involved with the new Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) across Kent, saying that those who own and manage the land must play a key part in the LNPs' decision-making process.

The call follows the announcement by Environment Minister Richard Benyon of 41 successful LNPs, a Government initiative to include all sectors of society in the natural environment.

CLA South East regional surveyor Tim Broomhead said: "We need people with genuine experience of the rural economy and land-management to contribute to LNP proposals in their area.

"The association is already encouraging its members to engage with LNPs to ensure that equal attention is paid to all three pillars of sustainable development, including economic as well as social and environmental criteria.

"Most importantly, we need to ensure that LNP designation does not stifle rural enterprise due to a tightening of planning regulations, which we have been assured by ministers is not the intention. This makes the need for a rural watchdog crucial.

"The CLA has successfully shown that farmers and landowners provide numerous goods and services, including many environmental benefits that are undervalued and under-delivered as people are not prepared to pay for them.

"This situation can only be improved if those who are charged with delivering the environment that the public wants have a say in how it is paid for and delivered."

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TRANSPORT

Olympics helps Channel trains break records

LE SHUTTLE, the car-carrying trains run by Eurotunnel through the Channel Tunnel, has set a new traffic record.

In the seven days up to Sunday, August 12, 74,292 vehicles – cars, motorcycles, caravans and camper-vans – and 776 coaches travelled in both directions between Folkestone and Coquelles, Pas-de-Calais.

This is the most traffic seen in one week since the end of duty-free in 1999.

To manage this, 838 Shuttle departures were needed, at five an hour.

At the same time, a new daily record was also achieved, with 15,152 vehicles travelling across the Channel on Saturday, August 11, in both directions.

This follows the increase in traffic seen as a result of the Olympic Games, when Le Shuttle Continental bookings rose by 16 per cent for the period from Monday, July 23, to Sunday, August 12.

There were 40 additional Eurostar departures during the Games.

Jacques Gounon, chairman and chief executive officer of Groupe Eurotunnel, said: "In a highly-competitive market, this new record demonstrates the efficiency and flexibility inherent to the Le Shuttle service, the professionalism of our staff and the attraction of a transport system that is both fast and environmentally friendly."

Insure your business against the high-cost risks of cyber crime

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

BUSINESSES are continuing to place themselves at risk of cyber crime, according to experts at insurance broker Bluefin, following research that reveals a sharp rise in online criminal attacks.

The warning comes as several reports provide fresh evidence of the scale of the threat faced by UK industry.

A report by Cambridge University calculated that cyber criminals cost the UK £11 billion each year, while an Experian study released this month found that the trade in illegal data had already doubled in size compared with last year.

As well as the immediate costs associated with a data breach, there is also potential damage to a company's reputation. According to another report compiled earlier this year, the average cost of a large organisation's worst security breach is £110,000-£250,000 and £15,000-£30,000 for a small business.

Cyber crime refers to malicious criminal activity targeted at individuals and businesses online and can include identity theft, fraud and extortion as well as the theft of intellectual property and data. As businesses across all sectors of the economy become increasingly reliant on the internet, the potential damage from cyber attacks has risen dramatically.



DANGER: Cyber crime can hurt your finances and your reputation

Last year, following consultation with a number of customers, Bluefin raised concerns that businesses of all sizes were being targeted.

Managing director Richard Dyer said: "There is still a worrying lack of awareness over just how widespread cybercrime has become. Any business, large or small, that relies on the internet holds customer data or has commercially-sensitive intellectual property is potentially at risk. This is no longer an issue that can be left to the IT department to deal with.

"Insurance companies are working hard to design policies that will protect businesses against the new and emerging threats arising out of e-commerce and internet technologies. However, it is imperative businesses are aware of the risks and take appropriate steps to ensure they are prepared in the event they are targeted."

BE PREPARED

To help businesses combat online crime, Bluefin suggests five key points to consider:

1. Review company-wide IT systems and ensure staff are aware of current best practice.

2. Conduct a detailed risk assessment to identify any potential weak points in security and ensure all firewall protection and anti-virus software is up to date.

3. Examine insurance policies and consider whether specialist online fraud cover is required.

4. Provide training to new and existing employees highlighting ways to improve data security.

5. Develop a series of contingency plans to help your business continue in the event of a data breach or other cyber crime.

PARTNERSHIPS

The other half is a key player in small firms

NEW research by Direct Line For Business reveals more than half (51 per cent) of UK tradesmen rely on so-called TWAGs (tradesmen's wives and girlfriends) to help run their company.

Despite TWAGs working on average two days a week – with one in four working three or more days a week – almost a third (31 per cent) of small-trade business-owners do not pay them any money at all.

The research showed 46 per cent of small-business-owners relied on their partners to carry out general business administration, while one in five (19 per cent) employed their partner as a receptionist.

More than one in seven (14 per cent) relied on their partners to look after legal and accounting services. A further 8 per cent of small-trade business-owners looked to their partners to carry out sales, marketing and new-business-generation work.

Jazz Gakhal, head of Direct Line For Business, said: "Small businesses are crucial in re-energising the UK economy. It is therefore heartening to see partners working together to sustain these small companies despite not being fully financially compensated.

"It is clear that small-trade businesses are seeking voluntary help from their partners to avoid high legal, secretarial or IT support fees, but it is vital that these businesses ensure their partners are adequately covered in the event of an accident."

Ensure you're up to date with staff law

EMPLOYMENT law is a minefield for many members of the business community as it is complex, constantly changing and has serious implications – especially in challenging economic times.

But help is at hand to clarify employment legislation at a workshop in Medway presented by leading South East law firm Furley Page.

The Employment Law Update 2012/2013 workshop, run in partnership with Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, will be held on Thursday, October 18, and is open to chamber members and non-members, whatever the size of their workforce.

Leading the interactive workshop will be Andrew Masters, partner and head of employment at Furley Page.

"This workshop will help employers and HR professionals keep up to date with the ever-changing complexities of employment law," said Masters. "As well as practical guidance, there will be question-and-answer sessions, so there's plenty of opportunity for delegates to raise issues of concern."

He will be joined by Amanda Okill, a senior solicitor who specialises in employment law, and financial planning manager Simon Ludden, who specialises in pensions and independent financial advice and will provide guidance on pension auto-enrolment.



LEADING: Andrew Masters, of Furley Page

The workshop is to be held at a new venue for 2012, the Bridgewood Manor Hotel, Walderslade Woods, Chatham. Registration is from 8am, with the workshop starting at 8.30am and finishing at noon.

The Furley Page team will guide delegates through recent developments in employment law and offer practical guidance on how to prepare for change. The effects on HR policies and procedures and people management will also be examined.

The team will cover new cases, employment reforms and the implementation of European Directives, while a light will be shone on the Coalition Government's sweeping programme of change to employment law.

An update will also be provided on pension auto-enrolment plans.

The workshop costs £35 to Kent Invicta Chamber members and £45 to non-members. To book, phone 01622 232707, email bookings@kentinvictachamber.co.uk, or visit www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk/furleypage to reserve a place.



Training, courses and careers

Train your way to success with an apprenticeship

THOUSANDS of apprentice positions are available in Kent and the south east – and for those willing to travel, there are more than 15,000 nationally.

This new data from the National Apprenticeship Service will be encouraging for those who have just passed their GCSEs in the county.

The apprenticeships range from nursing, IT, horticulture, business, life science, fisheries, legal, and creative. And those on the courses get paid while learning.

Included are new higher apprenticeships, which provide up to degree-level qualifications for apprentices and enable employers, colleges and universities to deliver the advanced skills most critical for growth.

The average gross weekly pay for apprentices is £200. But London Economics has calculated the lifetime benefit of achieving a Level 2 apprenticeship is extra earnings of between £48,000 and £74,000. The equivalent figure for a Level 3 apprenticeship is between £77,000 and £117,000.

There are three levels of apprenticeship available. The first is the intermediate level, where apprentices work towards work-based learning qualifications such as a Level 2 competence qualification, functional skills and, in most cases, a relevant knowledge-based qualification.

Next is advanced level, with those on the course heading towards work-based learning such as a Level 3 competence qualification, functional skills and, in most cases, a relevant knowledge-based qualification. And finally, there are higher apprenticeships, where they work towards work-based learning qualifications.

For more details, visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk or call 08000 150 600.

GCSEs not what you expected? Then don't panic

GCSE students worried about missing out on the chance to study A-levels are being handed a lifeline by MidKent College.

Young people who failed to achieve five A*-C grades at GCSE are invited to enrol on the new Level 2 Progression to A-Levels Diploma, which includes the opportunity to re-sit exams in GCSE English and maths.

Upon successful completion of the Medway course – based on a mixture of humanities and social science subjects such as history, politics, psychology, English and communication studies – students will be eligible to stay on at the college to study the A-levels of their choosing.

"We believe in giving young people a second chance, especially when it comes to their education," said Emma Wilkinson, head of faculty for higher and academic studies at the college.

She adds: "This new course represents a fantastic opportunity for anyone who just missed out on achieving five A*-C grades at GCSE but still wants to study A-levels at a later date.

"Whether you did better or worse than expected in your GCSEs, there are many benefits to studying here.

"We are passionate about education and are fully committed to providing our students with the best teaching possible."

To find out more about the courses on offer visit www.midkent.ac.uk.

Hitting the catwalk with stylish summer school to find next fashion icon

STUDENTS keen to follow in the footsteps of Karen Millen and study fashion at the University for the Creative Arts got a taste of what life might be like in a unique residential summer school.

Some 35 students from across Kent and beyond spent five days at UCA Rochester and lived like real students, learning new skills from the same expert lecturers and technicians that send degree students to Graduate Fashion Week.

The aspiring fashion designers, stylists and photographers, aged 14-19, created a portfolio of work, which culminated in a memorable catwalk show for family and friends.

Summer school co-ordinator, Loreta Jarvis, said: "The week-long residential school aims to inspire and engage young people who have a passion for fashion.

"It not only teaches them practical and theoretical skills but also builds their confidence and prepares them for life at an arts university."

The outreach project received its highest level of interest this year and more than half of participants were from outside of Kent for the first time.

Ben Kidger, a summer school leader, said: "I have been a mentor and summer school leader at UCA for the last 11 years and, every summer I witness the huge benefits that this course offers young, creative people.

"The end result is often life-changing for them, as they parade down the catwalk in front of their friends and family, showing off the creations they have made – they always go away with a confidence that perhaps wasn't there before."

And Gabriella Hatley from Sittingbourne Community College, added: "On the UCA summer school I learned how to draw in a more fashion related style. I have enjoyed the dynamic drawings I have produced, these have been used to record my inspiration and I have incorporated them into my final catwalk creation. It's all been very inspirational."

UCA's Fashion School has produced household names including Karen Millen and Zandra Rhodes. Ms Millen became one of the high street's best known names after growing up in Maidstone. Two recent graduates are currently battling it out to design for Rihanna in Sky Living's Styled to Rock and in 2009 Myrto Stamou won the prestigious Gold Award at Graduate Fashion Week.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817136.



TWIRL: Could the next Karen Millen be just around the corner thanks to UCA?

Still spaces to spare at top college

EAST Kent College – previously known as Thanet College – has revealed places are still available through clearing to study from this September on one of its new Higher National Certificate courses.

A new range of 10 HNCs are provided in partnership with Canterbury Christ Church University, and are an accessible and affordable alternative to university, with a direct route to the second year of a full degree.

The new one-year courses, equivalent to the first year of an undergraduate degree, cross a range of subjects like business, creative arts, science, and technology.

The college said they have a strong work-related emphasis, and are perfect for anyone uncertain about university, or who has not had the results they hoped for.

For those looking for an alternative to studying business at university, there is also the brand new Peter Jones Enterprise Academy, launching at the college this September. The enterprise and entrepreneurship course gives students the opportunity to launch a micro business, and be their own boss.

Advisors will be at Canterbury Christ Church University's Broadstairs campus on September 4 and the East Kent College campus on September 5 from 4.30-6.30pm, and between the same times on September 12.



OPPORTUNITY: HNCs are worth considering

Schools & education

Final piece of £100m jigsaw will be icing on top of college's renovation

THE final stages of Canterbury College's multi-million pound redevelopment are coming to an end.

Work on the New Dover Road site began in summer 2006, finishing this January, with the majority of the campus' buildings being redeveloped. The latest project began with the demolition of H-Block, the last of the old teaching buildings, during the holidays.

In its place will be Block 17, a three-storey complex which will continue the college's tradition of award-winning building design. It will be home to the college's supported learning provision, including a fully functioning training flat which will have a living room, kitchen and bathroom areas.

Block 17 will also be the base of its higher education provision and will contain 30 new classrooms, art studios, lecture theatres, and a student common room.

The overall redevelopment project will have taken seven years and cost more than £100 million.

The already-completed buildings feature four hair salons, a fully functioning training spa, a children's centre, dance and drama theatre, motor vehicle centre, veterinary nursing, sports therapy and student recreation facilities. The building will be similar to the recently-opened A-Block and be open next September.

Why not push the button on a career in the field of electronics?



BOOST: Students get to grips with the course

ANYONE interested in a career using electronics of almost any type can join one of the few remaining courses at North West Kent College.

It has Higher National Certificates (HNCs) in electrical and electronic engineering at the redeveloped Gravesend campus.

From September the college is also offering Higher National Diplomas and Higher National Apprenticeships.

The HNC in electrical and electronic engineering is a two-year programme covering digital systems, analytical methods, electrical science and electrical and electronic principles.

It is a Level 4/5 qualification and covers a work-based project to allow learners to progress onto a HND or degree programme.

Once completing the course, students can progress into job areas such as medical engineering, electronic design and cybernetics, the college said.

Robert Haddon, 23, from Gravesend, works for Launch Diagnostics, a medical engineering company in Longfield. He came to North West Kent College in 2010 to complete a HNC in electrical and electronic engineering. Since completing his HNC, he has now been promoted to a field engineer.

Scott Wilkins, curriculum manager for engineering, said: "We have a good history of students progressing from Level 3 and 4 programmes and going on to university or straight into work.

"We also have close business links with companies such as Coca Cola and BAE systems, which creates good links between our students and the industry."

For more details visit www.nwkcollege.ac.uk or call 0800 074 1447.

Graduates on course for success thanks to AEG-backed foundation

YOUNGSTERS seeking a career working for one of the world's biggest sports and entertainment companies have begun to benefit from a partnership between the University of Greenwich and promotions giant AEG.

AEG owns the O2 Arena and teamed up with the university – which has a campus in Medway – to offer a foundation degree in venues, events and hospitality management.

And after two years of study, three students have graduated after receiving guidance from AEG staff as well as work placements with the company.

Student Daniel Rolfe said: "I work as event hospitality manager for the VIP areas of the O2. I saw the course advertised at work and felt it could be a big step forward for me, and it has been.

"During the course we looked at the whole industry. When you're in the middle of something you often don't think about how and why you are doing things, so studying really opened the industry up to me."

An AEG spokesperson said: "We are delighted with the success of the programme. The ability to work with our local university and provide our employees with a formally-recognised and industry-specific qualification is something not many companies can boast.

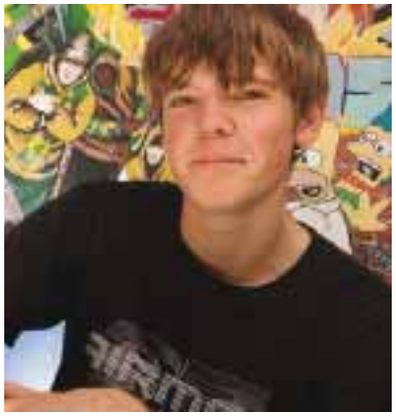
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Katriona Topps, Parent 2012

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BACKING **KENT'S FUTURE**

There are so many options when choosing next step after exams

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

FOR school-leavers, there are increasing options when it comes to finishing full-time education armed with GCSEs and A-levels.

The increase in university tuition fees means that further study is not the only item on the agenda as many businesses are looking to recruit directly to the workplace.

Employers in finance, retail and transport management have reported an increase in interest among school-leavers in taking their first step on the career ladder rather than using the next few years to obtain a degree.

This trend is illustrated graphically by the website notgoingtouni.com – set up as a service for young people considering options other than further study.

The site has had 150,000 visitors so far this year, compared with 100,000 for the equivalent time in 2011.

Part of the reason is that students starting university for the first time this summer will be the first to pay up to £9,000 a year for a degree.

But another aspect that has changed is the increased opportunities that many companies are offering for part-time study along with real workplace experience – and a paid salary.



CHOICES: School-leavers don't have to go to university... colleges have so many options to consider, or there's work!

Find out what opportunities school can offer you

KING'S Rochester is celebrating another year of top A-level results.

About one-third of all passes were in the coveted A* and A brackets and 62 per cent were top grades A* to B.

More than 86 per cent of all passes were A* to C, and staff and pupils can also celebrate the fact that all of the 22 subjects taken this year achieved a 100 per cent pass rate, with 15 per cent of the 65 candidates achieving straight A* and As.

The 40 per cent of students in the grammar stream at this broad-ability school achieved an average points score per pupil of 412.3.

At GCSE, more than 40 per cent of grades were A* or A this year and close to 70 per cent were A* to B – so good cause for celebration.

Jacob Porter netted a straight 11 A* and As, closely followed by classmates Stephen Green (10), Jacques Bestel (nine), Alexander Lindley (eight), Laurence Long (eight) and Charlotte Titmuss (eight). Gemma La Guardia and Olivia Blanning both gained 11 A* to C grades.

Several academic departments, including mathematics, ICT, music, Latin and German, registered a 100 per cent A* to C pass rate this year.

If you would like to hear more about how King's helps pupils to exceed their expectations academically, as well as supporting their musical, sporting, dramatic and other talents outside the classroom, you can visit the upcoming open morning.

Jeremy Walker, the school's new principal, will speak to visitors on Saturday, October 6, at 9.45am.

Phone 01634 888590 or email admissions@kings-rochester.co.uk for further information.



An independent approach to getting the best from pupils

AN INDEPENDENT college is celebrating another great year.

Rochester Independent College students this year have won places at medical, dental and law schools and at institutions ranging from Central St Martins to the Architectural Association, UCL to Durham. A record three will go to Trinity College, Cambridge.

Many students make the move to RIC after their GCSEs to maximise A-level grade potential.

They may have been very successful in Year 11, but some have been denied entry to their school sixth form or need to retake key GCSE subjects.

Harry Neilson, who will read philosophy at Sheffield, said: "My GCSE grades from Maidstone Grammar were not quite as good as I was expecting – I just didn't try hard. I could have stayed but moved for sixth form.

"I've been helped by the small classes – the teachers are passionate about their subjects and really know their stuff."

Maneesh Dhillon joined with grade Es in chemistry and biology after a disappointing Year 12. After two years' hard work, he graded ABB at A-level and has a place at Medway School of Pharmacy.

James Weber from Sevenoaks was not allowed to do A-level biology at his previous school as he did not have the required GCSE grade A in the subject. He switched to RIC and now has A*BB at A-level and a place studying animal psychology.

Laurence Routledge joined from Gad's Hill School. He is now celebrating an impressive five A-levels – maths, further maths, physics, geography and drama – and has a place to study astrophysics at the University of Sussex.

He said: "I was free to choose whatever subjects I liked because there were no option blocks. I was able to do more A-levels because RIC doesn't waste time doing subjects like general studies or critical thinking – things the universities aren't interested in."

WELL DONE: Harry Neilson is one of the many high-achieving students to have completed their study at Rochester Independent College

Continue learning when you enrol in college

DIDN'T get the A-level grades you were expecting?

Whether better or worse than you were hoping for, why not consider enrolling on an Higher Education course at MidKent College?

The college offers a number of Higher National Diplomas/Certificates and foundation degrees at just £5,700 a year – far less than the £9,000 maximum charged by some universities.

What's more, if you sign up for a full-time HE course today, you may also be eligible to receive a £1,000 progression bursary in the first year.

Director of HE development Stephen Batchelor said: "Money should not be a barrier to education, which is why we try to keep our course fees as low as possible.

"As the UK navigates its way through a double-dip recession, providing employability skills for our learners remains a key focus for MidKent College.

"We have designed a series of qualifications that will provide young people with the skills and abilities they need to be successful in building a career and gaining an edge in the ever-more crowded job market, making Higher Education a worthwhile long-term investment."

Should you enrol on an HE course at MidKent College, you will be guaranteed the highest quality of teaching. Part of the reason for that is that all of its courses are validated by either the University of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church University or Edexcel, and they are taught from state-of-the-art facilities at the college's Medway and Maidstone campuses.

Several new courses were recently added to the college's existing HE offer, which includes HNC/Ds and/or foundation degrees in applied chemistry, business, building and civil engineering, information technology, engineering, qualifying to teach in the lifelong learning sector and childhood studies.

Among the subjects covered by the new courses are hospitality and event management, performing arts, security, entrepreneurship, sport and leisure management and health and social care.

■ **Visit www.midkent.ac.uk for more information.**

Advertisers Announcement

Bishop of Rochester Academy to offer Music Scholarships from September

The Bishop of Rochester Academy, in Magpie Hall Road, Chatham, announced the introduction of 'Music Scholarships'. 25 Music Scholarship places are available to students joining the Academy in Year 7 from this September, 2012.

Any child who is interested in music may apply for one of these twenty-five Music Scholarship places at the Bishop of Rochester Academy each year. Parents who have seen their child develop an interest or talent in music are urged to ensure that their child benefits from this opportunity by applying for a Year 7 place at the Bishop of Rochester Academy from this September onwards.

As Music is one of the Bishop of Rochester Academy's 'Specialisms' the Scholarships are intended to support and enhance the standard and variety of music-making at the Academy.

"The Academy already has a strong musical culture and there is a lot of talent amongst the current students. Our students really enjoy performing." said Mr Boxall, the Academy Principal. "*And, as parents will know... learning Music helps children with their learning of Maths - it's very important that students achieve well in the Core academic subjects. The Academy's other 'Specialism' is Maths & Computing, which helps focus on Core Skills.*" he added.

Students attending the Bishop of Rochester Academy through a Music Scholarship will enjoy a variety of benefits, which may include such things as free music lessons (instrumental and/or singing), free use of a musical instrument to take home for practice, free music-related trips, involvement in musical performances, school uniform, and a music-based curriculum.

Applicants will be considered on the basis of their genuine interest in music, their enthusiasm and their likely contribution to music-making at the Academy in the future. Successful students will be expected to attend ensemble or choral rehearsals and to take part in concerts and/or other musical activities.

"*The Scholarships are for students who are serious about music - whether that's composing music, using the latest technology in music-editing software soon to be available at the Bishop of Rochester Academy; playing a musical instrument - traditional or modern; being in a band or part of an orchestra; or singing - choral or pop.*" said the Academy's Musical Director, Karen Fowler - who is co-ordinating the Scholarships.

"*There is infinite variety in music-making in the world today, and through our Music Specialism at the Bishop of Rochester Academy we are aiming to help the young people of Medway to develop their talents in music, supported by these new Scholarships.*" she added.

music colleges

Maths & Computing



For more information, or to apply for a Music Scholarship place at the Bishop of Rochester Academy for your child, parents/carers should contact the:

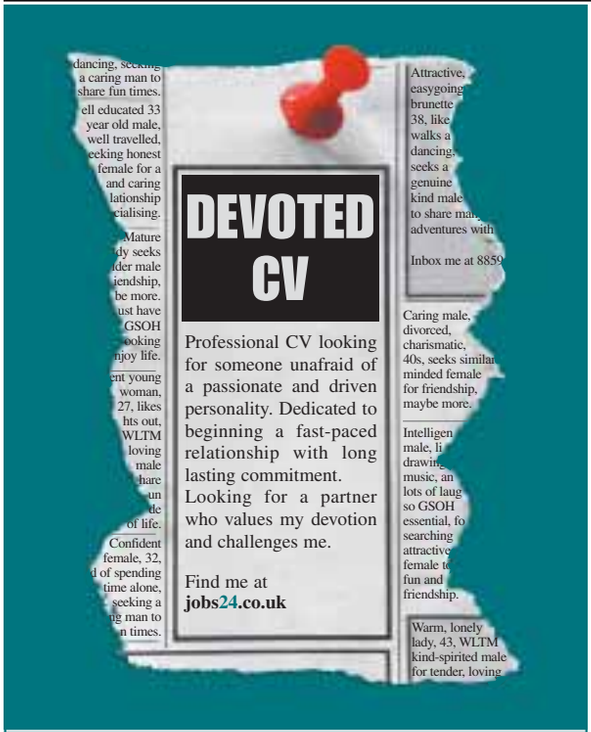
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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:.

Hourly Paid Electrical Installation Course Tutor/Leader Ref: SESS

Hourly Rate: £23.44 - £27.22 per hour
Medway Campus

We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Psychology lecturer to join our Access to Higher Education team. They will need to have experience of teaching Psychology, preferably to adult learners. The successful candidate will hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification.

Closing date: 12 noon, Thursday 6 September 2012

Hourly Paid Engineering Reviewing Officer/Assessor Ref: SESS

Hourly Rate: £12.06 - £15.54 per hour
Medway Campus

We are looking for an energetic, self-motivated and forward-thinking individual who has both the industrial knowledge and experience of working with Engineering Work Base Learners. The post will require an effective team player who is innovative and accommodating to liaise with employers in the co-ordination of training programmes, assess and review candidates' progress on Intermediate and Advanced Level Apprenticeship frameworks. You will require D32/D33 or A1 Assessor Awards and Vocational Qualifications relevant to trade. D34 or V1 Verifiers Award would be desirable, but not essential.

Closing date: 12 noon, Thursday 13 September 2012

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:.

Hourly-paid Lecturer in Psychology ***Ref: SESS***

Hourly rate: £23.44 - £27.22 per hour - Maidstone Campus

We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Psychology lecturer to join our Access to Higher Education team. They will need to have experience of teaching Psychology, preferably to adult learners. The successful candidate will hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification.

Closing date: 6 September 2012

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/1316/S - 17, NORTH STREET, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3AP - Change of use of A1 shop to C3 dwelling house including alterations to the front elevation, construction of a balcony and conversion of outbuilding to garage. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1407/S - LITTLE ADDLESTEAD, BENOVER ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6EY - Erection of a detached garage and biomass boiler room. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1449/N - HOMESTALL FARM, LOVE LANE, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9HJ - Construction of a steel portal framed agricultural building adjoining the existing farm yard, for hay, straw and machinery storage. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1461/S - THE BULL INN, LINTON HILL, LINTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4AW - Retrospective planning application for creation of timber decking. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1466/S - BYDEWS FARM COTTAGE, FARLEIGH HILL, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0JB - Change of use of existing outbuilding/shed to annex ancillary to existing house. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1495/N - LEADING CROSS GREEN FARM, HEADCORN ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2HS - Listed building consent for the erection of first floor extension over existing single storey side extension, reconfiguration of roof structure of existing rear extensions to form double gable end, internal alterations, replacement of side and rear windows with painted timber casements, restoration/re-use of existing Kent peg tiles to both roofs and walls, insertion of new window on east elevation and replacement of cement mortar on front and side elevations with lime mortar. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/1498/S - THE GODLANDS, STRAW MILL HILL, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6XB - Installation of 15,000 litre cylindrical self blinded diesel tank. **Reason: 2**

Reasons for advertisement key:

1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.

2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.

3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **16th September 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 2nd September 2012

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Public Notice

1 September 2012

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Gambling Act 2005

The Gambling Act 2005 requires that the Licensing Authority (Canterbury City Council) publishes a Gambling Policy document. This policy must be reviewed and republished. The next policy document is to be published in January 2013.

As part of this process we are consulting with a range of stakeholders, including responsible authorities, representatives of the trade and the public. The consultation period is to **1 December 2012**.

The draft Gambling Policy document can be viewed online at **www.canterbury.gov.uk/gambling**

A copy of the document can also be picked up from the council offices in Canterbury or posted to your home address.

Should you wish to have a copy of the Gambling Policy or to comment on it please do so by writing to:

Anton Walden
Licensing Case Officer
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
CANTERBURY CT1 1YW

or e-mail: **anton.walden@canterbury.gov.uk**

All comments to arrive by **1 December 2012** at the latest.

Anton Walden
Licensing Case Officer

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/02358/LBC **1 Nevill Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater**
- Listed building consent - removal of redundant external staircase and steps plus upper ground utility room. Extend the existing lower ground floor garage and utility areas. Construct new upper ground floor breakfast room, utility area and new rear terrace with conservatory extension. Formation of new opening in position of existing arch (LB)

12/02307/FUL **NatWest 89 - 93 Mount Pleasant Road, Culverden**
- Installation of wall mounted condenser unit (CA)

12/02366/LBC **Tower Cottage Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Demolish non-load bearing wall between kitchen & lounge; New insulated concrete ground in kitchen & lounge on damp proof membrane; Rebuild wall in same position off new dpc (LB)

12/02375/FUL **1 Marlingate Cottages Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst**
- Conversion of The Granary building to a dwelling (LB)

12/02379/LBC **1 Marlingate Cottages Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Conversion of The Granary building to a dwelling (LB)

12/02380/LBC **Holly House Cranbrook Road, Goudhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Repairs to south end wall connected to condition 5 of TW/08/03242/LBC works already carried out (LB)

12/02028/FUL **Steam Cottage Water Lane, Hawkhurst**
- Replacement effluent treatment unit for 9 properties (LB)

12/02357/HOUSE **Tanyard House Goudhurst Road, Horsmonden**
- Removal of existing gate posts and erection of new timber gate posts, timber 5-bar entrance gate and timber close boarded gate (LB) (CA)

12/02360/LBC **Tanyard House Goudhurst Road, Horsmonden**
- Listed Building Consent: Removal of existing gate posts and erection of new timber gate posts, timber 5-bar entrance gate and timber close boarded gate (LB)

12/02376/LBC **Heath Stores Grocers The Heath Stores, Horsmonden**
- Listed Building Consent: Removal of internal partition wall. Reforming an internal wall to create an opening to install a goods lift (both walls to rear). Removal of a mezzanine wooden storage area. Sealing of loading bay door (LB)

12/02201/HOUSE **Green Lane Cottage The Slade, Lamberhurst**
- Additional oak garage (Revision to previously approved application TW/11/01115) (CA)

12/02236/LBC **The Pantiles Hotel The Pantiles, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent - Ground floor internal alterations to renew kitchen including a 2m long x 1m high serving hatch with fire shutter; Remove bar and existing ladies toilets; Alter size of function room to include new male and female toilets: Convert existing ladies toilets into food preparation area; Remove internal lobby doors and replace glazed entrance doors with black painted panel doors (works started) (LB)

12/02279/FUL **Calverley Grounds Mount Pleasant Avenue, Park**
- 5 Year Temporary change of use for siting of ice rink, skate change marquee, external lighting, christmas chalets and associated plant and equipment, for a period of 9 weeks from November, December and early January (CA)

12/02353/HOUSE **32C London Road Southborough, Southborough Town Council**
- Replacement windows and weatherboard panels to front elevation(CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1RS

Dated: 1 September 2012

THE MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009 AND THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2007 (as amended)

APPLICATION FOR: The construction of a new road bridge across the River Medway and associated works

Notice is hereby given that Chris Hall of Trenport Investments Limited, 3rd Floor, 86 Jermyn Street, London, SW1Y 6JD has applied to the Marine Management Organisation to undertake a regulated activity under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

The application is to: Construct a new road bridge across the River Medway and to conduct ground improvement works on the East and West banks of that river.

A copy of the application and environmental statement, or as the case may be, supplementary information, is available for inspection during normal office hours for free at both Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ and Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR for a period of 42 days from the date of the first notice, 26 August 2012.

Copies of the environmental statement may also be inspected free of charge and by prior appointment at the offices of the Marine Management Organisation, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Copies of the environmental statement or environmental statement supplementary information may be viewed on line in the Public Register at www.marinemanagement.org.uk/publicregister

Representations or objections in respect of the application should be made in writing, giving an address to which correspondence relating to the representation or objection may be sent, to the Marine Management Organisation, Marine Licensing Team, Lancaster House, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7YH, or alternatively emailed to lillian.sandeman@marinemanagement.org.uk , within 42 days of the date of date of the first notice, quoting reference MLA/2012/00214

The Marine Management Organisation will pass to the applicant a copy of any objection or representation we receive.

PUBLIC NOTICES
To advertise call
0208 477 3739

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//12/01330/FUL: 8 Dolphin Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5LY Erection of building containing seven flats and conversion of rear studio/store into one flat with associated refuse and cycle storage. **Applicant: Mr Hawken and Mason** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01331/CAC: 8 Dolphin Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5LY Demolition of building fronting Dolphin Street. **Applicant: Mr Hawken and Mason** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA//12/01445/FUL: 7 Apsley Cottages, Station Road, Chartham, CT4 7HT Erection of agricultural building. **Applicant: Mr D Nicholls** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01461/LB: 23 St George's Street, Canterbury, CT1 2JT Replacement non-illuminated fascia, hanging, vinyl and window signs. **Applicant: Superdrug** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01465/FUL: 165 Island Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1EE Two-storey and single-storey rear extension and replacement windows. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs A Mecklenburgh** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01467/FUL: 2 Beltinge Road, Herne Bay, CT6 6DB Replacement of front entrance door and windows to ground floor bay. **Applicant: Mr N Islami** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 24 September 2012.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 31 August 2012



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PLANNING

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0747/SH - Gainsborough Court 22 Grimston Gardens Folkestone Kent CT20 2UB - Felling of an Atlas Cedar situated within a conservation area.

Y12/0710/SH+ - 35 Prospect Road Hythe Kent CT21 5NN - Crown reduction of an Oak tree subject of Tree Preservation Order No. 13 of 2012 comprising the reduction in height and width by 3 metres.

Y12/0745/SH - The Old School School Lane Newington Folkestone Kent - Retrospective application for conversion of an existing extension into a self-contained ground floor flat (resubmission of application Y12/0441/SH).

Y12/0746/SH - The Old School School Lane Newington Folkestone Kent - Conversion and extension of existing store to form a holiday let (resubmission of application Y12/0333/SH).

Y12/0743/SH# - Land To The Rear 74 High Street New Romney Kent - Extension to time limit of planning permission Y08/0758/SH for the erection of a block of 6 No. 3 storey dwellings with parking to ground floor and associated access and turning facilities.

Y12/0755/SH+ - 75 High Street Hythe Kent CT21 5AJ - Listed building consent for internal alterations to separate 1st & 2nd floor from ground floor to include blocking of opening and enclosure of staircase.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

\# - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13

KCC/TM/0304/2012 - Proposed development at Blaise Farm Composting Facility, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4PN.

New Earth Solutions Group Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the erection of a canopy structure and siting of a container to provide an ancillary workshop facility for a temporary period of up to 3 years.

You may view this application at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ.

KCC/TM/0293/2012 - Proposed development at Celcon Blocks Limited The Ightham Sandpits, Borough Green Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9JB.

H + H UK Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for installation of an additional slurry silo.

You may view this application at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 2 September 2012

Kent County Council

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 17 SEPTEMBER 2012

SW/12/1011:
Formation of new rear access road and extension to trailer park to serve the Kemsley Paper Mill, together with security cabin - Northern Access Road, Kemsley Paper Mill, Off Barge Way, Kemsley, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 3**

SW/12/1023:
Amendment of condition (xxi) appended to planning permission SW/95/544 and condition (xxi) appended to planning permission SW/00/0014 to enable loading, offloading and delivery of goods to take place between 0630hrs and 2300hrs Mon-Sat and 0830hrs and 1830hrs on Sundays and Bank Holidays in connection with use of the site as a retail store - Aldi Foodstore Ltd, East Street, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 3**

SW/12/1025:
To renew permission to erect boundary fence approved under reference SW/09/0640 - 1 Nelson Gardens, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 3**

SW/12/1042:
Advertisement Consent for 3 externally illuminated fascia signs and 7 non-illuminated vinyl signs - Costcutter Supermarket, 84-84a High Street, EASTCHURCH; **REASON 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning





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PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

Licensing Act 2003
Notice of application for a Premises Licence

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I **Mr Munur Kaya** have applied to **Barrow Borough Council** for a new premises licence in respect of the premises known as **Marmaris 2, 36 Cavendish Street, Barrow-in-furness, LA14 1PZ** as follows:

Late Night Refreshment:
From 23:00 to 05:00 Monday to Saturday
From 23:00 to 00:00 Sunday

Any person wishing to make representation in respect of the above activities may do so by writing to Licensing Manager, Barrow Borough Council, Town Hall, Duke Street, Barrow-in Furness, Cumbria, LA14 2LD by 20 November 2011.

A copy of the application is kept by the Barrow Borough Council, Licensing Manager, Barrow Borough Council, Town Hall, Duke Street, Barrow-in Furness, Cumbria, LA14 2LD. The application can be viewed Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm, except bank holidays.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for making a false statement is a Level 5 fine on the standard scale.

Sale of Former Dunkirk Primary School, Dunkirk
Faversham, Kent ("the Property")

This is a notice made by The Kent County Council ("the Council") under S.3 of the Reverter of Sites Act 1987 ("The 1987 Act").

The Council is the freehold owner of the Property, which it intends to sell.

The Council owns the Property pursuant to:

i) a Conveyance dated 14th November 1887 made between **Henry Woollright** and The School Board for the Ville of Dunkirk; and

ii) a Deed of Grant dated 4 February 1845 made between **Baron Sondes** and the Incumbent and Churchwardens of Christ Church in the Ville of Dunkirk.

The Property is subject to rights of reverter, having been transferred to the Council's statutory predecessor for educational purposes under the School Sites Act 1841 ("the 1841 Act"). The Property therefore reverts to the original grantor's estate if it ceases to be used for the purposes for which it was transferred.

The Council closed the school operating on the Property on 31 March 2008.

Under the 1841 and 1987 Acts, the Council now holds the Property on a statutory trust for the successors in title to Henry Woollright and Baron Sondes.

Anyone considering themselves to be a beneficiary under the statutory trust affecting the Property should inform the Council of their claim by writing to:

Catherine Lloyd
Kent County Council Legal Services
Sessions House
Maidstone
Kent County Council ME14 1XQ

before midnight on Thursday 6th December 2012

The Council intends to make an application to the Charity Commission pursuant to S.2 of the 1987 Act to extinguish the rights of any beneficiaries (being the successors in title of Henry Woollright and Baron Sondes) under the statutory trust and establish a scheme to apply the monies for such charitable purposes as the Charity Commissioners specify.

WARNING
Any person considering themselves a beneficiary under the statutory trust affecting the Property and wishing to oppose the extinguishment of their rights should notify the trustees of their claim in the manner and time specified in this notice.

Kent County Council

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12. Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with Archant KOS Media Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
13. Archant KOS Media Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
14. Archant KOS Media Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. Archant KOS Media Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from Archant KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with Archant KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per Archant KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
17. Seasonal contracts, Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a firstcome, first-served basis.
19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by Archant KOS Media Ltd within the advertiser's agreement, (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), Archant KOS Media Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use Archant KOS Media Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by Archant KOS Media Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in Archant KOS Media Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within Archant KOS Media Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of Archant KOS Media Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via Archant KOS Media Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
22. a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to Archant KOS Media Ltd shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
b. In the event that payment is not received by Archant KOS Media Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
c. In the event that payment is not received by Archant KOS Media Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
d. Not withstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of Archant Archant KOS Media Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by Archant KOS Media Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
23. Any discount which Archant KOS Media Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by Archant KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify Archant KOS Media Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the Archant KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to Archant KOS Media Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. Archant KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.
Effective from June 2008

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS AE363 AND AE639 IN THE PARISHES OF SEVINGTON AND MERSHAM

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS AE363 AND AE639 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14 (1) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed the following public Footpaths from the 24th August 2012

- Public Footpath AE363 between Highfield Lane & Blind Lane.
- Public Footpath AE639 between Highfield Lane and the junction with Public Footpath AE337A (NGR TR 037 408)

The paths will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that they will reopen before the 1st October 2012.

The paths are to be closed because the laying of water mains is planned on or near them and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Blind Lane, Public Footpath AE364, Public Footpath AE344, Church Road, Public Footpath AE340 and Public Footpath AE639 and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Melvyn Twycross

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH SR457

IN THE PARISH OF PENSHURST

PUBLIC FOOTPATH SR457 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath SR457, between Spring Hill (B2188) and a point approximately 140 metres to the east (at NGR TQ 523 413) from the 27th August 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 11th December 2012.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is along the southern and eastern side of the works area and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Mrs N Biddall

VILLAGE GREENS - IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMONS ACT 2006 - SCHEDULE 2 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE REGISTER OF COMMON LAND

Application has been made to the Registration Authority, Kent County Council, by Mr. I. Marsh under Paragraph 7 of Schedule 2 of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008. The application has been made on the basis that the area of land concerned was wrongly registered as Common Land. The effect of the application, if successful, is to remove land from the Register of Common Land for unit number CL82, as described in the Schedule below.

The application may be inspected at the offices of Kent County Council at the address below. Please contact the Commons Registration Team on 01622 221568 to make an appointment prior to visiting to ensure that a member of the team is available to assist you.

Any person wishing to make representations regarding the application should send a written statement of the facts upon which the representation is based to the Commons Registration Team at Kent County Council, either by post at the address below or by email to commons.villagegreens@kent.gov.uk, so as to arrive no later than Monday 15th October 2012. Please quote reference CAA17/CL82. Representations must include the name and postal address of the person making them and the nature of their interest (if any) in the land affected by the application. They must also be signed by the person making them and state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that any representations that are to be taken into account by the Registration Authority in reaching a decision on the application cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain during the processing of the application. Copies of any objections or representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment and may be disclosed to other interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

Description and effect of the application

The application seeks to amend the Register of Common Land for unit number CL82 at Sevenoaks by removing from the registration a parcel of land of approximately 0.85 acres (0.34 hectares) comprising part of the garden of the property known as 'Keveral' at Windmill Road in the town of Sevenoaks.

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (ZR81 (PART) HARTLIP) DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2006

On 15 August 2011 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order without modifications.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting that length of Public Footpath ZR81 which commences from NGR TQ 8417 6383 (Point A), running on the western side of the boundary for 61 metres in a northerly direction to NGR TQ 8419 6388 (Point B) and adding that length of Public Footpath ZR81 with a width of between 1.2 and 1.5 metres commencing from NGR TQ 8417 6383 (Point A) running on the eastern side of the boundary for 61 metres in a northerly direction to the aforementioned Point B.

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be seen free of charge during office hours at the offices of Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and map may also be purchased there.

This Order became operative as from 15 August 2011 but if a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provision contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of Section 53(3)(c)(i) or 53(3)(c)(iii) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may, under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within 42 days from 2nd September 2012 make application for the purpose to the High Court.

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF THANET

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS TM35, TM37 AND PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY TM35A IN THE PARISH OF BIRCHINGTON

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS TM35, TM37 AND PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY TM35A (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close the following from 21st September 2012

1) Public Footpath TM35 between the junction with Footpath TM36 (NGR TR 279 693) and the junction with Public Bridleway TM35A (NGR TR 290 682)
2) Public Bridleway TM35A between its junctions with Footpaths TM35 (NGR TR 290 682) and Public Footpath TM32 (NGR TR 291 682)
3) Public Footpath TM37 between Ingoldsby Road and the junction with Essex Gardens / Devon Gardens.

The paths will be closed at the following time:

01:00 hrs Sunday 23rd September and 05:00 hrs Monday 24th September

Further short periods of closure will be required within a three month period which will be signed on site.

The paths are to be closed because works are planned on the railway tracks and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Louise Adams

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 2nd September 2012**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

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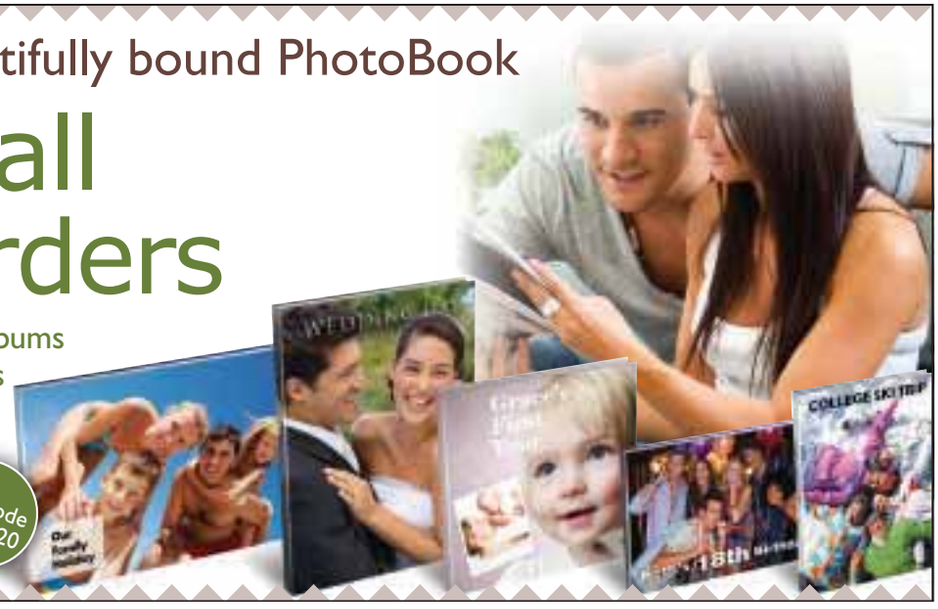
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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

CHURCH HILL, CHILHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to lay phone ducting in the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Hill, Chilham, on or after 23 September 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with The Square.

The 'No Entry' from A252 Maidstone Road into Church Hill will be suspended to allow access.

The alternative route is via Taylors Hill and A252 Maidstone Road.

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

GUILDFORD ROAD, CANTERBURY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Guildford Road, Canterbury, on or after 3 September 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length.

The alternative routes are via Martyr's Field Road, Heaton Road and Zealand road or via Oxford Road, Lancaster Road, Zealand Road and Heaton Road.

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

BELSEY LANE, EWELL MINNIS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new water supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Belsey Lane, Ewell Minnis, on or after 3 September 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Ferne Lane and Greenwich Lane.

The alternative route is via Ferne Lane, Warren Lane and Belsey Lane.

HAWKSDOWN, WALMER
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hawksdown, Walmer, on or after 3 September 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Dover Road and White Acre Drive.

The alternative route is via Hawksdown, Hawksdown Road (with the agreement of the Residents' Association), Gram's Road and A258 Dover Road.

SANDOWN ROAD, THE QUAY AND KNIGHTRIDER STREET, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in Sandwich, on or after 3 September 2012, as shown below.

SANDOWN ROAD - closed from 3 September for up to 2 weeks, between Grange Cottage and the junction with Manwood Road.

THE QUAY - closed from approximately 17 September for up to 2 weeks, between Quay Cottage and the junction with Knightrider Street

KNIGHTRIDER STREET - closed from approximately 24 September for up to 7 weeks, between the junctions with The Quay and Sandown Road

SANDOWN ROAD - from approximately 5 November 2012 for up to 12 weeks (with an anticipated closedown over Christmas), between the junctions with Knightrider Street and Manwood Road

Only one road will be closed at any one time.

The dates of the phases are approximate guidelines which may vary subject to weather, ground conditions and the progress of the works. The exact dates will be notified to local residents and signposted on site.

The alternative route for all phases is via the respective sections of Sandown Road, Knightrider Street, The Quay, High Street, The Chain, Galliard Street, (Harnet Street and The Strand in reverse), New Street and St George's Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER DISTRICT)
(WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES)
CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO 16) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to prohibit waiting at the following locations:-

Dodd's Lane, Dover	On the northwest side of the road. From the end of the existing waiting restrictions at the southwest end of Dodd's Lane, for a distance of 13m in a north easterly direction. On the end of the existing waiting restrictions at the south west end of Dodd's Lane, for a distance of 15m in a north easterly direction.
Maxton Road, Dover	From the end of the existing 'at any time' waiting restriction at the junction of Maxton Road and Mount Road, extending 7m in a south westerly direction.
Temple Side, Temple Ewell	On the north east side of the road. From the boundary of no.72 Target Firs and no.2 Temple Side, for a distance of 10m in a north westerly direction.
Dover Road, Walmer	On the north west side of the road. From the boundary of nos.219/221 Dover Road, for a distance of 36m in a north easterly direction.
Northcote Road, Deal	At the north end of the road, along the north end of the road for 6m, and extending 8m on each side of the road from the north end of the road.
Canterbury Road, Wingham	On both sides of the road. From the boundary of no.1 and no.2 Canterbury Road, in a north easterly then easterly direction for a distance of 60m.
Sea Street, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe	On the south west side of the road, from the boundary of Dutch Oven and Meadow View, in a north westerly direction for 41m.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Javelin Way Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Kent, CT16 3PJ during normal opening hours.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to Traffic Schemes Team,, Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 24 September 2012.

HIGHWAYS - GRAVESHAM AREA

HERON HILL LANE, MEOPHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Essential carriageway patching , Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Heron Hill Lane, Meopham , on or after 3 September 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from David Street to 160 meters west of the juction.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with David Street to 160 meters west of the juction.

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

MORRY LANE, EAST SUTTON
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new drainage system, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Morry Lane, East Sutton, on or after 17 September 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic from the junction of Chartway Street for approximately 25 metres.

The alternative route is via Chartway Street, Charlton Lane.

PLUM TREE LANE AND HILL GREEN ROAD, STOCKBURY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Plum Tree Lane and Hill Green Road, Stockbury, on or after 3 and 10 September 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic on Plum Tree Lane between the junction of Hill Green Road and West Wood Road and on Hill Green Road between the junction of Yelsted Road and The Street.

The alternative route for Plum Tree Lane is via Hill Green Road, The Street, South Street Road, West Wood Road and for Hill Green Road is via The Street, South Street Road Yelsted Lane.

TESTON LANE, TESTON
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of maintenance tamping and RSM inspection by Network Rail, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Teston Lane, Teston, on or after 23 September 2012 for up to 1 day between 07.00hrs and 23.00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from A26 Tonbridge Road to Teston Country Park.

The alternative route is via A26 Tonbridge Road, Farleigh Lane, Station Road, B2010 Lower Road, Teston Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS) (BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE)
(VARIOUS TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS)
(CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO. 1) ORDER 2012

The Kent County Council in exercise of their powers under Sections 82 (2); 83 (2); and 84 (1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act of 1984, has made an Order to:-

1. Modify the following Order:
 The Kent County Council (Various Roads) (Borough of Maidstone) (Various Traffic Movements) Consolidation Order 2000
2. Introduce Prohibition of Right Turns from the roads specified in Column 1 into the road specified in Column 2:

Column 1	Column 2
1. Brunswick Street East	1. Upper Stone Street
2. Upper Stone Street	2. Old Tovil Road

3. Introduce Prohibition of Left Turns from the roads specified in Column 1 into the road specified in Column 2:

Column 1	Column 2
1. Brunswick Street	1. Upper Stone Street

This Order is to formalise restrictions already in place and does not introduce any new restrictions.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the Order and a statement of reasons for making the Order may be examined during normal office hours Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX and at Ashford Highway Depot, Henwood Industrial Estate, 4 Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

RABBITS ROAD, SOUTH DARENTH
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of new gas service installation, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Rabbits Road, South Darenth, on or after 17th September 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside The Retreat at the junction with Skinny Lane and Shrubbery Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Skinny Lane and Shrubbery Road.

The alternative route is via: Rabbits Road, Canada Farm Road, Green Street, Green Road, St Margarets Road, Holmesdale Hill, Shrubbery Road and East Hill.

HIGHWAYS - SHEPWAY AREA

BARTHOLOMEW STREET, HYTHE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bartholomew Street, Hythe, on or after 17 September 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the rear of 29B High Street.

The alternative route is via Hillside Street and Old Malthouse Hill

HIGHWAYS - SWALE AREA

NELSON STREET, FAVERSHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow phone ducting to be placed in the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Nelson Street, Faversham, on or after 20 September 2012 for up to 1 day, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.

The road will be closed outside property numbers 2 & 3.

The alternative route is via The Mall, Preston Lane and Preston Grove.

SCHOOL LANE, IWADE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide services for a new development, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on School Lane, Iwade, on or after 17 September 2012 for up to 12 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between property numbers 66 and 90.

The alternative route is via Sheppey Way, Stockfast Lane and High Oak Hill.

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

STAR LANE, BROADSTAIRS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of road widening and improvements, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Star Lane, Broadstairs, on or after 3 September 2012 for up to 6 months or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junction with Manston Court Road and Nash Road.

The alternative route is via Manston Court Road, A256 Haine Road and Nash Road.

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING, TUNBRIDGE WELLS AND SEVENOAKS AREA

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, TONBRIDGE & MALLING, TUNBRIDGE WELLS AND SEVENOAKS) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION (SPECIAL EVENTS) ACT 1994 SECTION 16A

Kent County Council gives Notice that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is being held on the highway. Kent County Council intends to make an Order; the effect will be to temporarily prohibit the use of Vehicles travelling on the roads detailed below.

The Order will become effective on Sunday 23rd September 2012. The event is planned to last 1 day between 09:00hrs and 14:30hrs. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

Nothing in the Order will apply to:

- Any Vehicle being used for Ambulance purposes, Coastguard/RNLI, Fire Brigade or Police services.
- Anything done by a Statutory Undertaker vehicle in connection with an emergency repair.
- Anything done with the permission or at the direction of a KCC traffic Marshall, Event Organisers or a Police Constable in Uniform.

Schedule

Road Name:	Brook Street, Tonbridge
Extent:	From Hayesbrook School to Upper Haysden Lane
Road Name:	Molescroft Way, Tonbridge
Extent:	Entire Length
Road Name:	Upper Haysden Lane, Tonbridge & Bidborough, Tunbridge Wells
Extent:	Entire length
Road Name:	Haysden Lane, Bidborough, Tunbridge Wells
Extent:	From Brook Street to Ensfield Road
Road Name:	Ensfield Road, Bidborough, Tunbridge Wells & Leigh, Sevenoaks
Extent:	Entire length
Road Name:	Lower Green, Leigh, Sevenoaks
Extent:	Entire length
Road Name:	B2027 High Street, Leigh, Sevenoaks
Extent:	Entire length
Road Name:	B2027 Hildenborough Road, Leigh, Sevenoaks
Extent:	Entire length
Road Name:	Rings Hill, Hildenborough, Tonbridge
Extent:	Stocks Green Road to Lower Street
Road Name:	Lower Street, Hildenborough, Tonbridge
Extent:	Entire length
Road Name:	Philpots Lane, Leigh, Sevenoaks
Extent:	Entire length
Road Name:	Coppings Road, Leigh, Sevenoaks
Extent:	Entire length
Road Name:	Compasses Hill, Leigh, Sevenoaks
Extent:	Entire length
Road Name:	B2027 Tonbridge Road, Leigh, Sevenoaks
Extent:	Entire length
Road Name:	B2027 Penshurst Road, Sevenoaks
Extent:	Entire length
Road Name:	Lower Haysden Lane, Bidborough, Tunbridge Wells & Tonbridge
Extent:	Entire length

The purpose of the closures is to facilitate The Tonbridge Half Marathon.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

BROOMHILL ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Broomhill Road, Tunbridge Wells, on or after 3 September 2012 for up to 7 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Oriel Cottage for 45m towards Speldhurst Road.

The alternative route is via Lower Green Road, Etherington Hill, Speldhurst Road.

WHETSTED ROAD, CAPEL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new water main over the railway bridge, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Whetsted Road, Capel, on or after 3 September 2012 for up to 26 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via B2017 Badsell Road, A228 Maidstone Road, Whetsted Road.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 2nd September 2012

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

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Bob Dylan exhibition shows his other art

SEE PAGE 51



SWAN LAKE

Tchaikovsky's music comes to the stage

SEE PAGE 52

Kent Weekend



Sound of silence

The Boy With Tape On His Face has a lot to say about keeping quiet

SEE PAGE 46

PLUS: Sample a rare taste of Persian before it's gone - **food and drink p48** Increasing problems for first-time buyers - **property p53** Ford maxes out with the small MPV that has a lot of space - **driving p57**







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THE INTERVIEW

Sam Willis

Witnessing the superb silence

Joe Bill meets The Boy With Tape On His Face – an unusual comic making a big noise around the UK... by not actually saying anything at all

SILENT performers have a rich history in the comedy world, with the likes of Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin being household names around the globe.

Now there is one more to add to that list – The Boy With Tape On His Face.

"Ironically enough," he said, "word of mouth is getting out."

Stand-up comedian Sam Willis, better known as 'The Boy' or 'Tape Face', is coming off the back of a third year of sell-out performances at the Edinburgh Comedy Festival, a Royal Variety performance and an ever-increasing number of TV appearances.

All this with out a single word being uttered.

The 35-year-old has bagged awards from Chortle as "breakthrough act" in 2011 and Fosters as "best newcomer" in 2010, along with a string of gongs showing his notoriety in his native New Zealand and adopted Australia.

He is keen to reveal how his show differs from others in his genre: "I describe my show as stand-up comedy without talking, so if you like stand-up comedy then you will like my show.

"I use the same sort of formats as a regular gig, with set-ups then punch lines, but my difference is that I am on stage for an hour with a bit of gaffer tape over my mouth."

Audience participation is key to Willis's routine and in live comedy it can always be dangerous to use audience members – they are unpredictable. But he uses the crowd to keep participants in check.

"Most people are really keen to play along and get into it. When they get up on stage there is an initial fear of being in front of an audience for some, but once they realise the people are supportive the stage becomes a much safer place to be, which is really nice.

"I use props and people to create the jokes. Because of the show I do, there is no real wrong way to do it. So people getting up on stage have got a very small job as part of the gag.

"The key is getting them into the right place at the right time for the joke to work," he said.

But for those who have never seen him, the show is by no means silent. In fact, The Boy's new 38-date tour, which sees him come to The Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury, features a gunfight, a battle with Darth Vader and bringing John Lennon back to life.

"There is a huge amount of music in the show. When I do a key joke, then a key piece of music will suddenly play that will make it funnier and sillier.

"A lot of the time I get my inspiration from the music first when I am writing material. So when I hear one of those nostalgic 80s songs, then I will start working on a bit, just based around that song.

"I tend to limit my music tastes for the show to 80s and 90s because that is the target audience I am trying to create that nostalgic feeling for.

"Modern music is all good and fine, but for me there is not a great deal of comedy value in it."

Recent appearances on ITV's Comedy Rocks have helped to propel him into the UK spotlight, but, as Willis explains, this was never the intention in the beginning.



When I do a key joke, then a key piece of music will suddenly play that will make it funnier and sillier...

WILLIS, ON HIS ACT

In fact, it was a magic set the comedian received as a child that set him on his way to becoming an apprentice to a clown in Timaru, his home town in New Zealand.

"After learning a few tricks, I knocked on the door of our local clown and asked if he would take me on, and he did.

"He taught me all the basics of uni-cycling and stuff like that and through this my passion became juggling. I wanted to be a juggler in Las Vegas – that was my big goal."

Willis then did the one thing that all parents tell you not to do.

"I discovered a few towns up from where I lived there was a circus school. So I literally ended up dropping out of school and ran away to circus school. It was great fun.

"I juggled for two years and ended up staying at the school to teach juggling.

"It was there I got interested in the circus sideshows and the 'freak show'... all that Coney Island sort of stuff. I loved it all," he said.

Willis perfected the art of hammering a nail up his nose and other stunts before finding himself on stage performing "weird carnival tricks".

"I was making a career out of doing all these stunts and talking a lot of comedy, but I suppose I got bored of the sound of my own voice and decided to try something completely new and shoved tape over my face."

And so The Boy character was born... almost.

"When I went on stage the first time as the new character I had it all planned out and I walked out and completely ruined it by talking to the audience. So the next night on stage I put the tape on my face to stop the urge to talk – so it was actually born out of necessity than a character-driven choice.

"The tape I use is pretty industrial – I ship it from Australia to the UK. It is a high-grade quality gaffer tape that you could probably stick a small child to a wall with."

Now based in Essex, Willis is taking the UK by storm, but he will never completely give up on his circus-esque roots.

"I mostly focus on the tape-face stuff because it has taken over my life a wee bit, which is fine because I really enjoy it.

"But it's still nice to sometimes go out on to the street, yell for an hour, shove my arse through a tennis racket and cut a cucumber up on someone's stomach.

"People have no idea that at night I put a bit of tape on my face and be quiet for an hour – they are very contrasting characters. Occasionally, people ask if I am Tape Face, and I say no. It's like a reverse Superman type thing."

And, like many comics, The Boy also has his heroes and influences from the comedy world.

"The comedy I enjoy the most is the likes of Jimmy Carr because they are incredibly wordy. It's almost the polar opposite of what I do. I don't want to just sit down and watch three hours of Charlie Chaplin. There was always something quite sneaky about Chaplin – he is willing to steal the loaf of bread to win the girl over, but I like Buster Keaton... he was happy to let life tread all over him, which always quite endearing to me."

When it comes to the future, and what is in store for audiences, Willis keeps it nice and simple:

"I will keep doing this until I get bored with it and evolve it into something else."

■ **The Boy With Tape On His Face comes to The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury, on Tuesday, September 25 (phone 01227 787787 or visit www.marlowetheatre.com)**



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ATTRACTIVE caring lady, 77, 5ft 1ins, GSOH, fit, varied interests, seeks sincere gent, N/S for companionship and happiness. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395453**

GILLY green eyed red haired nurse looking to start a new life with similar lonely male also looking for genuine love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395043**

ANNE attractive 30's student nurse who loves to keep fit and travel looking for broadminded professional male, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395037**

CLAIRE 19yr old bored busty blonde seeking male for fun times in or out. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395033**

LINDA 42, easygoing, likes cinema, walks, theatre, seeks N/S male with similar interests for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395523**

FIT active lady, early 70's, honest, caring, OHAC, likes gardening, music/dance, seeking nice companion to enjoy life together and have good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394915**

SARAH 40, large, tactile, likes cuddles, walks, cinema, beach, meals out, seeking male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390912**

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386331**

SENSUAL 32yr old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309**

BECKY 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTM Mr Right if he is out there? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305**

LOUISE young 48, long hair, blue eyes, cultured, easygoing, good natured, seeks intelligent, genuine guy for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389389**

TINA young 64, smoker, GSOH, loving, caring, likes animals, meals out, seeks male for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394201**

JULIE 5ft 9ins blue eyed blonde looking for male for mutually convenient meets, looks/status unimportant, discretion a must. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394123**

SUSAN first time advertiser very lonely and looking for love with considerate, loyal male with lots of love to give and GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393489**

TRACY likes nights in/out, seeking honest male, 36-46 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391884**

SERENE affable black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, friendly, loves reading nature, theatre, music, sports WLTM genuine caring gent, 34-47 to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

BUBBLY female, 49, kind, caring, honest, GSOH, brown hair, blue eyes, likes meals out, pubs, cooking, cinema, seeks male with similar interests for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390815**

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, well travelled, intelligent, GSOH, seeks genuine, affectionate male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393897**



CHRISSY 51, 5ft 8ins, blue eyes, brown hair, large build, size 22, seeks local male from loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395209**

LADY likes most things, wishes to meet gent 62-68 for evenings in/out, cinema, walks, talks and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392472**

RACHAEL blonde haired attractive female 27, looking for love with fun guy who like me is not looking for anything too serious, Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394667**

TRACY mum of two, blonde, slim, attractive, tactile and very sexy for age, WLTM male 30-50yrs for ltr, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394665**

LESLEY professional single mum, a bit of a chatterbox, loves fine dining/wining, WLTM eligible bachelor to take advantage of. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394659**

SALLY 27yr old Air Hostess seeking honest reliable male to join the mile high club, discreet liaisons and friendship with benefits. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394655**

GINA 65, likes bowling, golf, looking for N/S male, 60-66 for friendship, fun, nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394623**

PAULA 27, attractive brunette, very outgoing and sensual looking for similar male for mature broadminded relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394571**

KAREN pretty single mum of one, 34, independent, professional, OHAC, looking for someone special to enjoy good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394563**

MID 40's slim, attractive female, seeks single male, 65-80 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391989**

DONNA 24yr old single nurse, curvy, pretty, brown hair, big eyes, single and fun to be with, WLTM mature male for romance 25-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391117**

SARAH 27yr old single mum, independent, very pretty, GOSH, many interests, seeking male for cuddles and lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391097**

DENISE very normal single white female, likes nights in/out, keeping fit, seeking genuine romantic black male for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391093**

MARGARET middle aged, attractive, likes storm chasing, cooking, seeks male with GSOH, possible forces. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391648**

JEANETTE big brown eyed busty fit size 10 with lots of interest, searching for a sincere man to share love and life with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374703**

JENNY very young shy black female looking for reliable, genuine nice older man to help me become an attentive lover, 40-70yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374701**

HELLO I'm Jane, attractive, genuine, caring, intelligent, romantic and single at 38yrs, what are you waiting for? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374677**

ALISHA blue eyed petite brunette, likes to keep fit, cooking, holidays, seeks male 30-45 for special times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392399**

MICHELE very attractive black single mum, 32yrs, someone you could take home to your mother, seeking a one in a million guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391879**

GEORGINA likes horses, dogs, walks, seeks male, 60-72 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386426**

TANYA 28, beautiful black single mum, very body confident and all out of love. Lonely and looking for good company with experienced respectful man. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381727**

HI genuine, fun to be with male? Nancy 39, attractive, discreet, lonely and in need of some much missed male attention. Call me **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381705**

IRENE looking for happy go lucky relationship with trustworthy male for romantic evenings in, quiet nights out, passionate weekends away and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381701**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, NS, solvent lady, young 50's, loves travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388071**

JEM 24 new to this, WLTM someone who also enjoys fine wine/dining for good times and adult relationship, 28-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392497**

ELIZABETH 70 plus, enjoys life, GSOH, seeks caring man for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390990**

51YR old attractive Queen of the Jungle, seeking genuine, caring older gent for uncomplicated times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390916**

JACKIE 32 attractive classy professional, blue eyes, brown hair, healthy/trim, well travelled, feminine, smart, seeks male, 40-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391013**

JAYNE honest sincere attractive lonely professional, OHAC, looking for fun times with similar lonely gent, age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390985**

AFFABLE serene black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, loves reading nature, theatre, music WLTM genuine caring gent to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

MEL easy going middle aged singleton looking for adult companionship with nice male who appreciates a feminine, attractive lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392487**

WELL educated female, slim, smart, mid 50's, needing to restart life, looking for tall, slim, smart gent with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391136**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, professional/military gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394525**

LADY 70, likes most things, WLTM gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394309**

GINA 65, likes bowling, golf, looking for N/S male, 60-66 for friendship, fun, nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394623**

HELEN 34yr old single mum to one, tall, slim and attractive, WLTM intelligent male for good conversations and adult meets, 30-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394475**

ELISA blue eyed brunette 39, curvy and delicious, loves to travel and live life, seeking similar free spirited loving male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394461**

VICKY 26yr old pretty blonde, athletic, good job, great house/car, single and getting bored, looking for male to entertain me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394459**

I'M Dawn a petite medium built female who enjoys most things looking for fun, love and companionship. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394129**

YOUNG in outlook 60yr old lady, seeks gent with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393173**

JUDY slim blue eyed blonde, 35yrs, great fun, intelligent, educated, N/S, seeks witty guy for gym dates, friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393135**

VERY attractive single black female, 32, loves night in/out, seeking genuine companion for text fun, love and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393131**

FAY very lonely single mum, 26yrs looking for some adult companionship with open minded, non-judgmental male. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393121**

LORRAINE 32yr old petite attractive female looking for male to turn up the heat on our rather gloomy summer. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393119**

LADY 60's, bubbly, hurt in past, likes socialising, cooking, cats, holidays, seeks kind honest gent, 58-65 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389653**

KIRSTY 44yr going on 24yrs, sensual, attractive and in need of spoiling, and attention, seeks likeminded male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383051**

CLARE 36yr old nurse, pretty, slim, active, all round good catch, seeking male 40-70yrs for mature loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393479**

SUSAN gorgeous 29yr old lonely Scottish lass new to area and at loose end, seeking reliable caring male up to 40yrs for friendship/more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393465**

JACQ 45, slim, natural blonde, blue eyes, GSOH, seeks confident guy for company/friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391564**

KAREN 38 slim and attractive seeking confident professional for companionship, status/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392407**

28YR old lady, seeking male, 35-60 for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391756**

BUBBLY fun loving single mum, 47, seeks Knight in shining armour, 38-55 to put the spark back into life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392951**

SHARON 33, slim blonde, blue eyes outgoing, attractive, looking to put some much needed fun back into life, seeks male 30-45yrs. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383047**

PETITE French lady, likes to be pampered, seeks sugar daddy, 40-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379579**

FEMALE 58, widow, attractive, seeking mature gent, 60 plus with GSOH for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379649**

Men Seeking

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Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 (T&C's below)

CHARLES 51, GSOH, seeking female, 25-65 for cuddles and love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395513**

SIMON looking for female for adult fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392642**

MATURE gent seeks attractive young female as companion on 6 week holiday in late August. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395529**

PRESENTABLE Surrey male, looking for lady for afternoon fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395521**

MICHAEL romantic, honest, caring, seeks lady to brighten up lonely life, likes walks, meals out, nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395445**

ROY 43, 6ft, attractive, GSOH, likes gym, seeking female for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392598**

ANDY businessman likes animals, meals out, seeking happy, outgoing female to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395591**

SUB male, WLTM mature extremely dominant female for happy relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395327**

MICHAEL dark hair, brown eyes, 5ft 9ins, outgoing, likes cinema, meals out, walks, animals, looking for friendship, romance and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394863**

ATTRACTIVE 48yr old lady, slim, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes travel, cooking, working out, seeking loving man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390868**

MICHELLE fit trendy 40's female, no ties, good job, OHAC, fun to be with, looking for honest trustworthy male for friendship, poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389757**

TRUDIE blue eyes, dark hair, solvent, OHAC, enjoys life, spending money, going out, seeking genuine male to enjoy life with and spoil. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389755**

MALE 55, seeks attractive lady for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394761**

GARY 30, flirty and fun, interested ladies. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392298**

TONY 57, single, no ties, likes music, art, dancing, theatre, walks, seeks female, 40-60 for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394371**

PAUL 41, own home, looking for lovely lady, 30-45. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394367**

JASON 37, 5ft 8ins, short hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes football, body building, cooking, seeks female for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394369**

DAVID 37, good looking, fit, seeking older lady for discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392242**

JAMES 40's, good looking, single dad, seeking lovely lady for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393665**

49YR old male, 6ft 1ins, easygoing, seeking serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394535**

50 and shades of grey, looking for day time fun with female, 18-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394401**

SPANISH/SWEDISH speaker sought for 67yr old Chartered Accountant for education and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392306**

MALE likes animals, simple things in life, seeks N/S, tall, slim female with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391738**

DAN 18, easygoing, looking for sweet, petite female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395215**

ROMANTIC white male, early 50's, tall, dark, attractive, many interests, seeks tall, black lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395213**

MALE seeking easygoing female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395157**

CHAS GSOH, looking for friendship, leading to relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395119**

SUSSEX male, 50, attractive, seeks N/S, younger, attractive female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395019**

ANDREW 6ft 4ins, medium build, outdoor type, gardener, GSOH, likes walks, animals, cycling, seeks N/S female to brighten up life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392476**

TED 58, GSOH, likes travel, cooking, gardening, DIY, music, films, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394905**

LIGHT hearted 58yr old male, 6ft, blue eyes, slim, lively, active, seeks pretty woman 28-50 for fun times. Croydon. **Tel No:0906 515 7112 Box No: 393567**

EXPERIENCED fella 55, good fun, seeks lady, 35-55 for exciting times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393797**

MALE 56, seeks adventurous lady, 46-55 for uncomplicated friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393763**

HAPPY go lucky male, 50, GSOH, seeks female for relationship and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393739**

Gay Seeking

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: **GAY601** to **65125** for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service. **(T&C's below)**

Go online - www.localgaydate.co.uk

66YR old male, likes classical music, art, seeking older gent, 75 plus for companionship and travel. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395579**

STEWART bi, 5ft 10ins, slim, 60's, looking for male, 45-65 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395363**

Friendship

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: **GAY601** to **65125** for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service. **(T&C's below)**

Go online - www.localgaydate.co.uk

STRAIGHT lady, 60, young outlook, seeks single, unattached friends for socialising, travel, theatre, lunch etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392318**

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Pick Persian... before it's gone

RESTAURANT REVIEW



EVER eaten Persian? If you have, you are – at least from my experience – one of a favoured few. If you haven't, firstly you're missing out, and, secondly, one opportunity to do so is probably soon to be taken from you.

Patogh (say it without the 'h') in Ramsgate is one of very few Persian restaurants in Kent to come up on a quick internet search, which of course goes some way to explaining the lack of people who have tried it, but sadly the 'To Let' sign adorning its façade serves notice that this rich culinary tradition is about to have even less a presence in the county.

Patogh's days are numbered, you see, not because it hasn't been a success but because its proprietor has so much work on elsewhere that he is unable to devote the requisite time to it.

And so it was that I ventured out on my own journey into Persian cuisine. Once I'd overcome the shock of that To Let sign (this had been a long-intended meal), I took a table with my guest and chatted over the options with the proprietor's pleasant and informative son, who was doing the waiting.

He suggested the mixed starters, which was a happy chance as we had already pretty much decided on these anyway. For me, the pick of the bunch was salad olivier, comprising potato, eggs, peas, Persian luncheon meat, gherkins and mayonnaise, although the kofteh berenji (balls of minced lamb, lentils, rice and dill served with a tomato sauce) and the mini mince kebabs were also good, apart from the limp and ageing lettuce on which the latter were served.

My guest focused her attentions on the kashke bademjan (aubergine topped with herbs, fried garlic and onions "with a speciality sauce made from whey") – and there were certainly no complaints from her as she tucked into the first section of her birthday meal.

It was at the second section – the mains – that I did that most irritating thing... having asked someone's advice, I promptly discarded it.

The waiter's nod had been that for this, our first taste of Persian, we should go with the kebabs. Perhaps it was this (I'm sure unintended) implication that I was a culinary novice who should play safe that pushed me towards what he termed the stews.

Hence I elected for the ghaymeh (diced lamb cooked with dahl lentils in a tomato sauce topped with thin chips and served with saffron rice), while my companion chose zereshk polo (breast of chicken cooked in a tomato sauce served with saffron rice and topped with caramelised barberries).

The one recommendation we did follow was the addition of shirin topping (caramelised almonds, pistachio, carrot, orange peel and barberries) – it was excellent and added handsomely to what should always be the most important part of a meal.

My cheery companion heartily enjoyed her dish, while I was satisfied, if not overwhelmed, by mine. A rogue herb or two – purely a personal thing, of course – worked against it a little and, truth is, I should have taken that advice and gone with a great big plate of kebabs.

Such a statement is not intended flippantly. Patogh food is good and, quite simply, I like kebabs. Perhaps I missed a bit of a trick.

My overall impression of Persian food was not – as had been ventured and indeed might have been expected, given the geography – of a cross between Turkish and Indian. Rather, this was something all on its own and bore only difficult comparison. Some will like it, some will not.

Thing is, if I want to get it right next time, I'd better hurry, as had you, if you want to try out Patogh. Or I suppose you could alway buy it...

Dave Mairs

■ **Patogh**
2 Effingham Street, Ramsgate CT11 9AT
Telephone 01843 852631



New-look White Lion will roar once more

THE White Lion in Selling has been transformed by a couple who fell in love with it while stopping off for a drink en route to France.

The countryside watering hole has been extensively refurbished by new tenants Lisa and Anthony Chesterton in a £40,000 project backed by Faversham brewery Shepherd Neame.

Lisa said: "Anthony and I used to split our time between the summer in County Clare in Ireland and the skiing season in France. We spent a night locally en route and the pub was recommended to us. After popping in for a drink we were totally bowled over. It's everything we wanted – a great location, bags of potential."

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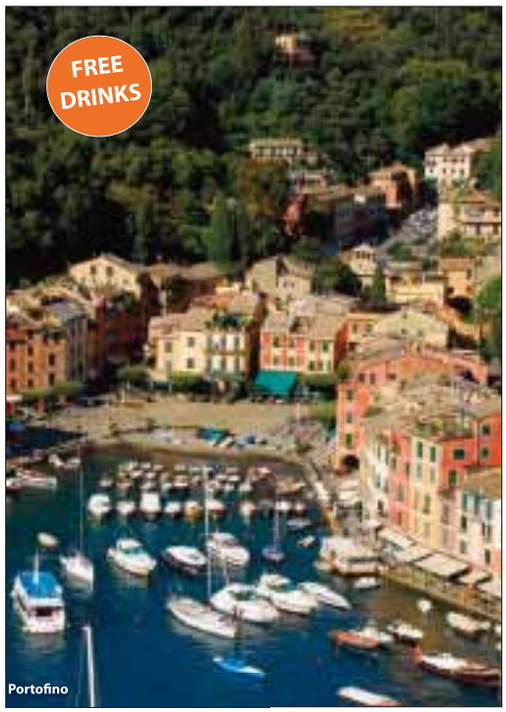
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Quote RF-KOS

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Included: Escorted throughout • Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras • Return rail travel from St Pancras (*from Ebbsfleet on request) - afternoon departure • 1 night hotel B&B in Paris or Lille outbound • 6 nights in Diano Marina, Italy - half board plus free drinks 6pm to 11pm every night • All excursions • All transfers abroad

Hayling Island Christmas Party

For over 40s only

Mill Rythe Resort
Hayling Island

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS 99p Bar

£159pp

Quote XM11-KOS

23 November, 2012

Come to our private Christmas Party – for over 40s only – at Mill Rythe Resort, nestled away on the western side of Chichester Harbour on Hayling Island, near Portsmouth.

GN Holidays is celebrating its 15th birthday so we're having a combined birthday and Christmas party all in one.

Enjoy 99p drinks and great entertainment every night including Jeff Hooper's Big Band – the Strictly Come Dancing tour band for the last 2 seasons. Our favourite marching band, the Dagenham Girl Pipers, will also bring their distinctive brand of music and marching to the entertainment line-up.



Leisure facilities at Mill Rythe include an indoor swimming pool, all weather bowls and more. Standard chalets are roomy and comfortable, offering en-suite bathroom with colour TV, tea and coffee making facilities - upgrades available.

INCLUDED:

• 99p Bar 6pm to 11pm every evening - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks and mixers
• Full Entertainment programme featuring Jeff Hooper's Big Band
• 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
• 3 nights en-suite chalet


Plenty of entertainment at Pontin's Pakefield

Suffolk Coast Midweek Breaks

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village

Self-Drive - 4 nights, half board

Quote PM10-KOS

£89pp

1, 8, 15, 22 Oct, 2012

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy entertainment every night and day with Pontin's famous Bluecoats and visiting cabaret acts – PLUS a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9 hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more. The recently refurbished chalets are all single storey and situated on level landscaped grounds just a short stroll from the main facilities. All chalets have TV, tea/coffee making, heating, double glazing, en suite bath/shower & toilet, bed linen & towels. Included meals are taken in the buffet-style cafeteria with views over the grounds to the sea.

INCLUDED:

• 4 nights en-suite chalet accommodation with TV & tea/coffee-making facilities • 4 dinners & 4 breakfasts • Entertainment every day



Cary on New Year Parties at Bosworth Hall Hotel

Market Bosworth, Leics

Self-Drive - 2 nights, half board+ 99p Bar

Quote BH1-KOS

Was ~~£109~~pp

Now £89pp

4, 11, 18, 25 Jan & 8 Feb, 2013

Join us for a weekend party break that extends the New Year celebrations. Enjoy 99p drinks from 6pm to 11pm and entertainment nightly at Bosworth Hall Hotel, located in the village of Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. All the bedrooms are en-suite with TV, telephone, trouser press and tea & coffee tray. Leisure facilities include an indoor pool & gym (£4 per day payable at the hotel).

INCLUDED:

• 99p drinks from 6pm to 11 pm nightly - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks and mixers
• 2 nights sharing a twin/double-bedded en-suite hotel room
• 2 breakfasts & 2 dinnners
• Entertainment



Isle of Wight Carry on New Year Party

For over 40s only

Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS Free Bar

Quote BX1-KOS

£239pp

11 January, 2013

Our Carry on New Year Party is back at Warner Bembridge in 2013 by popular demand. Once again fun is the theme with plenty of entertainment and a party atmosphere throughout at this super seaside hotel.

INCLUDED:

• Free Bar from 6pm to 11pm every night for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
• Full entertainment & activities programme
• 3 nights en-suite hotel accommodation – upgrades available
• 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
• Car ferry crossing

Come Dancing Party

Enjoy ballroom and latin dancing? We're running our popular Come Dancing Party alongside the Carry on New Year Party - add dance tuition, a Gala Ball and much more for just **£20pp** extra

YOUR WEEKEND

Follow us **@KOSLeisure #KOSWeekender** or **http://www.kentnews.co.uk/leisure**

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**



Professor in da house

Just be good to Green

Winter Gardens, Margate
Saturday, October 20, at 7.30pm
Box office 01843 292795/296111
www.margatewintergardens.co.uk

FREESTYLE ace and UK rapper Professor Green is bringing his live tour to Margate's Winter Gardens.

Green, real name Stephen Manderson, made a name for himself as a battle MC from Hackney, London, winning the prestigious freestyle Jump-Off tournament twice in a row.

But now Prof Green is a hit-maker, having penned three albums and a host of Top-10 hits. He often samples classic songs on tracks like Be Good To Me, which he recorded with Lily Allen, and Need You Tonight, based on the hook of the INXS song of the same title.

Tickets for Professor Green's Margate gig are priced at £20 and on sale now.

Wild music

Bringing Ibiza style to Kent

Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, Ashford
Fri to Sun, September 14-16
www.thezooproject.com

A SLICE of countryside is to be transformed into a pumping Ibiza-style festival with help from Port Lympne Wild Animal Park.

Classic Ibiza entertainment group The Zoo Project will bring 50 top electronic and dance artists straight from the Balearic Islands to thousands of fans at the safari park, near Hythe.

The group, who operate a weekly club night at an abandoned zoo in the hills of Benimussa in Ibiza, host a festival in the UK every summer and this time the venue has been chosen in Kent.

Revellers can enjoy sets from the likes of DJ Sneak, Scuba, Sasha, Ben Klock, Norman Nodge, Visionquest, Prosumer and Raresh.





Shaun's up for a life of crime

The Ladykillers

The Marlowe, Canterbury
Tue to Sat, September 25-29
01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

A HIT adaptation of the 1955 Ealing comedy The Ladykillers is coming to The Marlowe.

Starring Kent actor and Marlowe favourite Shaun Williamson, the play tells the story of eccentric little old lady Mrs Wilberforce, who lives alone in a strange lopsided house in King's Cross.

Her life is turned upside down by the arrival of Professor Marcus and his four friends, who make up the most unlikely group of criminals. Planning the heist of a security van, they plan to use Mrs Wilberforce as cover and involve her unwittingly in the plot.

The Ladykillers is adapted by Graham Linehan, best known for writing TV shows Father Ted and The I.T. Crowd.

Street fair

Join cavemen and Queen Vic

Addington Street, Ramsgate
Sunday, September 9
01843 596 194
www.whitstablebiennale.com

QUEEN Victoria – or at least someone dressed to look very much like her – will be one of the star attractions at this year's Addington Street historical fair in Ramsgate.

The fair has been running for 25 years, but the holding of this year's event had looked unlikely until friends Carol Mortlock and Phyllis Leaney decided the show must go on.

Now visitors can look forward to street entertainers (including Punch and Judy), stalls hosted by anyone from cavemen to 1950s folk, face-painters and live music.

The area will be closed to traffic for the event, which runs from 10am to 4pm, when the raffle will be drawn.

The fair is being supported by Elephant Windows.

All money raised will be given to Kent Air Ambulance.








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WWW.THEWEDDINGSHOW.CO.UK

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To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Class cabaret
Performers at stage festival

Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs
Friday, September 7
0845 2626263

THE autumn season at the Sarah Thorne Theatre Club opens with a pioneering cabaret festival.

Curtain-up on Friday, September 7, features award-winning star Brigitte Rene, who presents The Mosaic Cat Festival, a three-day mixed-arts cabaret bash.

Rene, winner of the 2011 Best Cabaret Award at The Adelaide Festival and who lives in Broadstairs, performs on both sides of the world and has five slots in the Mosaic Cat festival, including playing the part of Marlene Dietrich.

Also on the bill is Back To Back Bacharach, an act of music and theatre written and arranged by Graeme Davies and Jamie Moore that tells the first part of the Burt Bacharach story. Tickets cost £16 for Sarah Thorne Club members and £18 for non-members.



Sausage Time
Harry Hill back from the burp

The Marlowe, Canterbury
February 7, 2013
01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

COMEDIAN Harry Hill will be starting his first live tour for six years at The Marlowe Theatre next year.

The self-styled floppy-collared loon is back with his Sausage Time show that promises proof that God exists, a section just for Tongans and a chance to catch up on Harry's Nan's latest ailments.

Stouffer the Cat returns and there is a debut stand-up spot by Gary, Harry's son, recognisable for his role as Alan Sugar in Harry Hill's TV Burp.

As star of the hit show, Hill established himself in the Saturday prime-time TV schedules fronting a staggering 11 series, which scooped three BAFTA awards and two British Comedy Awards.

Bob Dylan art goes on show
Tour memoirs

Castle Gallery, Bluewater
Open now
01322 380038
www.castlegalleries.com

SINGER-SONGWRITER Bob Dylan has his new-limited edition artwork showcased at Bluewater's Castle Gallery.

One of the most important cultural icons of this century, Dylan is an acclaimed singer and songwriter, but more recently he has been breaking into the art world with his collection of prints entitled The Drawn Blank Series.

The latest eight-piece collection includes the launch of the new piece House on Union Street, signed by Dylan.

The launch includes seven additional limited-edition graphics, including Dad's Restaurant, Truckstop and Vista from Balcony. The pieces were created during Dylan's world tour between 1989 and 1992.





Top DJ's Royal date
Roni Size at Star Hill

Royal Function Rooms, Rochester
Saturday, November 17
Tickets £18, on sale now
www.preservationsocietypresents.co.uk

BRITISH record-producer and DJ Roni Size is the latest to confirm a gig in Medway at the initmate Royal Function Rooms.

The former Mercury Music Prize-winner will play to some 200 people at the venue on Rochester's Star Hill, supported by Dynamite MC and Kids Unique on Saturday, November 17.

Size came to prominence in 1997 as the founder and leader of Reprazent, a drum-and-bass collective who won the Mercury Prize for their album New Forms.

The DJ was in Kent only last month as he played the Dance Stage at the successful Lounge On The Farm festival in Canterbury.

Tickets are on sale online now.

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Email: events@stroke.org.uk
or visit stroke.org.uk/resolution

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Stroke association

YOUR WEEKEND

Soap star flies in for panto
Jennifer Ellison

Churchill Theatre, Bromley
Friday, Nov 30-Saturday, Jan 6
08448 717620
www.atgtickets.com/bromley

FORMER Brookside actress and model Jennifer Ellison will be playing Peter Pan in this year's Churchill Theatre Christmas panto.

After recently impressing on ITV's Dancing On Ice, Ellison will slip on the tights once more to become the leader of the lost boys in Neverland.

Studying dance from the age of three, Ellison is a talented dancer, singer and actress although is probably best known for her role of Emily Shadwick in Brookside.

Starring alongside her will be children's favourites Andrew Agnew (Balamory's PC Plum) as Captain Hook's sidekick Smee and CBBC presenter Gemma Hunt as Tinkerbell.

Tickets from £15-£26.





Rocking the Red Lion
Slam Cartel

Leo's Red Lion, Gravesend
Friday, September 7
www.reverbnation.com/leosredlion or www.slamcartel.com

LONDON rockers Slam Cartel take their UK tour to Leo's Red Lion in Gravesend next month as part of their latest track launch.

New single Breathe has already become a favourite with Slam fans and has now been released to buy on digital sites.

Slam Cartel have been steadily gathering notoriety with the public for their true rock sound, combining hardcore hooks and rocking riffs heavily influenced by the likes of The Cult, Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Guns'n'Roses and the Foo Fighters.

The group's LP Handful of Dreams has aired on Planet Rock radio since its 2011 launch.

Charity bash at cathedral
What a ball!

Canterbury Cathedral Lodge
Friday, September 14
01843 291235
canterburycathedrallodge.org

WHY not take in the stunning sites of Canterbury Cathedral while helping to raise money for a very worthy cause?

The Cathedral Lodge will be hosting a charity ball on Friday, September 12, featuring food, drinks and live entertainment to raise cash for the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital in London.

For those turning up in formal dress, there will be a drinks reception from 7pm followed by a three-course banquet and music from local band Rubber Biscuit.

Tickets are priced at £49 each, but if you book a shared table for 10 guests the price will be £450 (£45 each).

The evening will wrap up at about 11pm. For more information or to reserve a ticket, email Jo Thompson at CharityDinner@mail.com.

Russian ballet
Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake

Central Theatre, Chatham
Sunday, October 21
01634 338338
www.whatsonmedway.co.uk

THE magic of Swan Lake is brought to Chatham by the Russian State Ballet and Opera House.

Tchaikovsky's classic will be sure to enchant audiences as it has done since it was first performed at Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre in 1877.

The ballet tells the story of Odette, a young princess who is turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer and can only be saved by her prince's everlasting love and eternal devotion.



Swan Lake promises to impress ballet-lovers by showcasing the outstanding skills of the production's 45 dancers. The show will entertain adult and child story-lovers alike with its vibrant portrayal of this classic tale.

Fear that first-time buyers being priced out of the housing market

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk



HOUSE prices have increased three times as much as the average income over the last decade, according to the latest research from the National Housing Federation.

And this means that first-time buyers are finding it increasingly harder to get on to the housing ladder – one of several factors making the market consistently sluggish

In 2001, the average price of a home was £121,769, with the average salary £16,557, whereas today the average house price has soared to £236,518, an increase of 94 per cent.

Wage inflation has failed to match this rise, with the average salary rising to just £21,330, an increase of 29 per cent.

Banks currently require a deposit of £59,129 on an average 75 per cent mortgage. This figure is almost three years' pay at an average salary.

Back in 2001, first-time buyers could obtain 90 per cent mortgages, making the average deposit £12,177, the equivalent of just nine months of a then-average salary.

The amount of deposit needed for a mortgage has gone up by a massive 386 per cent during that time.

Eleven years ago, the ratio between average house price and salary was 7.4, but by 2011 it had risen to 11.1

David Orr, chief executive of the National Housing Federation, said: "These shocking figures show that it is getting increasingly harder for millions of people to buy a home of their own in the current climate.

"With the gap between income and house prices growing ever wider, people can often feel like they have to win the Lottery to be able to buy in their local area. A shortage of homes means the price to buy them is being pushed ever higher by the market, and out of reach of millions of hard-working families.

"Unless we start building more homes people can truly afford to match the demand, this will only get worse."

Higher rents 'hurting the UK's economy'

RENTS hit a new record high in July, according to the latest buy-to-let index from LSL Property Services.

And although this might be good news for landlords, in reality it is another symptom of the country's poorly-performing property market, say economists.

The average rent is now £725 per month according to LSL – up 2.8 per cent compared with a year ago. The figure varies across the UK and even across Kent, with areas such as Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks approaching the figures associated with London.

Areas such as Thanet, Medway and Swale were comparable with those in the lower category across the country, such as the North East and South West.

Analysts agree that rising rents are not good news for the economy. The first thing this means is that more people have less money to spend after they have paid for a roof over their head every month.

Economic forecasters say rising rents are just another squeeze on the cash-flows of consumers – which is not what the UK economy needs right now.

And it is argued that rising rents are indicative of something else... they are demonstrating that houses still cost too much.

One reason for this, according to experts, is that banks are scared of mortgages turning bad and don't want to give too much money to people wanting to buy houses at the moment.

Hence the numbers of people renting is going up and the increased demand for rental properties is pushing up rents.

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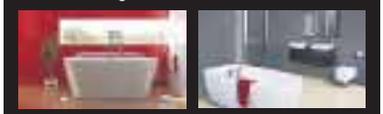
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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Adam is ready to launch on to the market
- Snap up a bargain in the Honda summer sale
- Toyota is breaking boundaries with advert



New Range Rover has lost weight, so cutting emissions

Driving carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



FORD B-MAX

Price: £12,995
Driving appeal: Not yet driven
Image: ★★★★
Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★
How green?: ★★★★
Best rival: Vauxhall Meriva

Ford maxes out on small MPV that offers you lots of space

VAUXHALL designers must have thought they had cracked it with the latest Meriva.

The masters of MPV flexibility designed their second-generation junior MPV to have a rear door that not only hinged to the rear but also swung unusually wide – a potential godsend to mums strapping in baby.

But arch-rival Ford strikes back this month with an all-new competitor, the B-Max (from £12,995) that not only has sliding rear doors but also does away with fixed centre side pillars – the strengthening is incorporated instead in the edges of the front and rear doors.

It's not just parents who will love this 1.5-metre-wide side opening but people who need to move the occasional bit of furniture, have elderly passengers, or like their sport and have loads of kit to stash aboard.

The arrangement also makes access easier in crowded streets or narrow parking bays.

Ford calls it the Easy Access Door System – well, they'd have to find some fancy name that also lends itself to abbreviation, wouldn't they?

Apparently, the brand's engineers went undercover to observe drivers in their daily routine – going shopping or picking up their children from school – to understand exactly what customers wanted from a compact car.

Apart from the door system, they also designed an easily-reconfigured seat system, with 60/40 split rear seats that fold flat with a simple one-hand, one-motion mechanism.

The front passenger seat can also be folded, creating an extensive flat-load floor capable of swallowing loads up to 2.34 metres long.

Combined with the generous side access, this makes it particularly convenient to load bulky items such as flat-pack furniture or bikes.

An adjustable floor in the boot creates a flat load space when the rear seats are lowered, with extra room below to hide valuables.

With all this flexibility, Ford believes the B-Max can not only capture existing MPV-users but many who would like to downsize from larger conventional cars – as many as 40 per cent of B-Max customers are expected to be in this category.

The UK market-leader has another card to play, too, in the form of an advanced voice-control system called Sync, allowing users to connect mobile phones and music players by Bluetooth or USB, make hands-free telephone calls and control music and other functions, all by using voice commands.

The powertrain choices are impressive, too, both petrol and diesel options delivering some excellent economy potential for this class: the 120PS (199bhp) 1.0-litre Ecoboost petrol (£18,195) records an official combined 57.7mpg, while the flagship diesel, the 95PS (94bhp)1.6 TDCi, returns 70.6mpg.

Fiesta underpinnings ensure it's no mug in the handling department, either, despite the extra height and commanding driving position.





ROOM TO MOVE: The open B-Max is built to make it easier to access the rear seats, as demonstrated by Ford designer Erika Tsubaki

DON'T LIKE

... the boxy styling. It's practical, but many MPV-buyers still want some style. Vauxhall's Meriva and the Citroën C3 Picasso look sharper.

NOT SURE

... Ford always gets the look when creating practical cars – witness the current C-Max seven-seater and the unlamented Ford Fusion.

REALLY LIKE

... how Ford has gone back to basics in trying to work out what people really want. Despite the styling, the B-Max should be a big hit.

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BiTurbo adds premium power

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IN a range with so many trim and engine permutations, you may be forgiven for overlooking the twin-turbo diesel option added to the Insignia earlier this year.

But the new BiTurbo speaks volumes for Vauxhall's ambition to snap at the heels of premium marques like BMW and Audi.

Both German brands offer silky and potent six-cylinder diesel engines, but Vauxhall cannot now justify such investment since opting out of selling big executive flagships like the Senator and Omega – though the Insignia does a pretty good job of straddling that and its own more mainstream D-segment.

Vauxhall's solution to the engine conundrum, then, is to add an extra turbo to the Insignia's everyday four-cylinder 2.0-litre diesel, boosting output from 160 to 195PS (193bhp). The result is a car that responds like a six-cylinder as the smaller turbo spins up at low revs to deliver pulling power quickly before the main turbo joins in.

It all seems so effortless and, when paired with the all-wheel-drive of the upmarket VX-Line Sports Tourer test car and a slick six-speed gearbox, it can gobble up the cross-country miles and hit 60mph in just 8.6 seconds.

Significantly, Vauxhall has also supported the extra power by fitting its FlexRide adaptive damping as standard on all Insignia BiTurbos – normally a £790 option on front-wheel-drives.

FlexRide automatically tunes the dampers according to how the car is being driven and can also be set to tour and sport modes to sharpen the driving experience still further.

On 4x4 versions like ours, FlexRide is also linked into the car's Torque Transfer Device (TTD) to deliver exceptional traction, grip and control to a level likely to flatter the driver.

And while the official combined fuel consumption, as ever, looks optimistic at 50.4mpg, this is an economical sporting car that should give the Germans a fright once you get past the equally optimistic £32,390 list price and have a haggle.

OK, the issue of badge snobbery comes into play here; you would need a serious discount to offset the Vauxhall's greater depreciation as well as persuade you not to buy a premium badge, but I always make a case for the Insignia's style.

It was a worthy winner of the European Car of the Year title in 2009 and heralded a string of excellent designs from Vauxhall's British designer Mark Adams and his team.

The saloon/hatch looks like a four-door coupé, while the rakish Sports Tourer is the slickest estate on the market yet still practical, and the much-discussed blade detail abaft the front wheel is a master touch suggesting power.

Apart from the performance flagship VXR, the VX-Line trim on the test car is also as sporty as you can get and includes – as you may have guessed – lots of VXR kit such as the front spoiler, side sills and rear skirt and spoiler plus a leather-covered three-spoke sports steering wheel, leather-covered gearknob and dark headlining.

With the addition of the test car's £1,145 perforated leather sports seats, with electrically-adjustable front ones, the roomy cabin is smart.

Vauxhall has conducted a major upgrade of its interiors over recent years to the point where it has surpassed a couple of so-called premium marques and pulverised many mainstream rivals.

The Insignia's is well organised with quality alloy trimmings and an upmarket finish, complemented by decent ride quality and refined cruising ability and great passenger and load-carrying practicality across all three body styles – in short, it's a car worth spending time in.

WORTH A LOOK: The 4x4 Sports Tourer is a choice that offers drive experience and style

INSIGNIA BITURBO 2.0CDTi SRi VX-LINE 4x4 SPORTS TOURER: PRICE £32,390



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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



The eve of Adam is near

VAUXHALL opens order books on its eye-catching Mini and Fiat 500 rival, the Adam, when the Paris Motor Show opens on Thursday, September 27.

As with the two retro stars, the Adam will offer a high level of customisation over and above three trim levels likely to meet most tastes – Jam (fashionable/colourful), Glam (elegant/sophisticated) and Slam (racy/sporty).



Honda sale time launches

HONDA has been staging a summer sale ahead of the 62-plate change and also running a daily draw on the brand website, with prizes ranging from a car or motorcycle down to other Honda products such as a lawnmower.

Top showroom deals are likely to be the new Honda Civic hatchback, pictured, or run-out bargains on the soon-to-be-replaced third-generation CR-V SUV.



Toyota GT86 is real deal

NOT short of media praise, Toyota's GT86 sports coupé, is now making the most of a multi-million-pound advertising splash.

The 'real deal' ad features a computer-generated man who, tired of living in an artificial world, finds the GT86 and uses it to break out into the real world.

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* Not Available on Expression, ES, Vauxhall Tech Line models, Astra BiTurbo 5dr and Sports Tourer models, Ampera or VXR8. **Vauxhall Deposit Contribution not available on Corsa SXi or Mokka. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee or Indemnity may be required. Finance supplied by either Vauxhall Motor Finance RH1 1SR or Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 1 October 2012. †Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. ^Customer deposit shown after deduction of Vauxhall Deposit Contribution. Insurance offer available on Corsa SXi models only, and only in conjunction with Flexible Finance. First year insurance offer available on Corsa SXi only. The offer will cover the full premium for drivers aged between 21 -75 (motor policy only). Only available through Vauxhall Insurance. Policies are underwritten by Ageas Insurance Ltd.

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11	61	**CORSA VXR 1.6 3dr,** Arden Blue	£13,995
11	11	**CORSA EXCITE CDTi 1.3 3dr,** Glacier White	£9,495
11	11	**CORSA EXCITE 1.2 5dr,** Black Sapphire	£8,995
12	12	**CORSA LTD 1.2 3dr,** Black Sapphire	£11,995
12	12	**CORSA ACTIVE 1.2 5dr*,** Pepper Dust	£10,495
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* Available from 29 September 2012

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08	08	**ASTRA DESIGN TWINTOP CDTi 1.9D 2dr,** Air Blue	£8,495
08	08	**ASTRA BREEZE+ 1.6 5dr,** Ultra Blue	£6,495
08	08	**ASTRA BREEZE 1.6 5dr,** Ultra Blue	£6,495
09	59	**ASTRA SXi SPORTS HATCH 1.6 3dr,** Flame Red	£6,995
10	10	**ASTRA EXCLUSIV 1.6 5dr,** Blue	£8,995
11	11	**ASTRA SRi CDTi 1.7 5dr,** Black Sapphire	£12,995
11	11	**ASTRA EXCLUSIV TOURER 1.3 5dr,** Sovereign Silver	£12,985
12	11	**NEW ASTRA ACTIVE 1.6 5dr,** Sovereign Silver	£13,995

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10	60	**AGILA SE AUTO 1.2 5dr,** Steel Silver	£8,495

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10	60	**INSIGNIA SRi CDTi 2.0 5dr,** Black Sapphire	£11,995
11	61	**INSIGNIA EXCLUSIV TOURER 2.0 5dr,** Technical Grey	£15,995

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11	61	**ZAFIRA EXCITE 1.8 5dr,** Star Silver	£11,995

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11	61	**VIVARO SWB SPORTIVE CDTi 2.0 5dr,** Star Silver	£12,995
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07	57	**NISSAN MICRA VISA 1.2 5dr,** Red	£4,995
05	05	**RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 1.2 3dr,** Blue	£3,495
05	05	**RENAULT SCENIC EXPRESSION 1.6 5dr,** Silver	£3,350
04	54	**SKODA FABIA 1.2 5dr,** Blue	£2,995
07	07	**VW TOURAN DIESEL 1.9 5dr,** Blue	£7,995
04	04	**CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3dr,** Star Silver	£3,195
06	06	**CORSA SXi A/C 1.4 5dr,** Ultra Blue	£2,995
06	06	**TIGRA 1.4 2dr,** Star Silver	£4,795
09	58	**ASTRA DESIGN AUTO 1.8 5dr,** Black Sapphire	£4,995
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Range Rover is star weight-watcher

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



JAGUAR has been a pioneer of lightweight-aluminium body construction, so it's no surprise that sister brand Land Rover's all-new Range Rover benefits from the same.

And it can now claim to be the world's first SUV to get a lightweight all-aluminium monocoque body structure.

It's not hard to see why the luxury 4x4 adopted it, either: along with aluminium chassis elements, it means the new RR is a whopping 39 per cent/420 kilos lighter than before and delivers much-needed CO_2 emissions savings – there ought to be a motoring weight-watcher-of-the-year prize.

It's the fourth-generation Range Rover since the original arrived more than 40 years ago as a three-door runabout offering farmers, landowners and the construction industry something with Land Rover off-road ability but far more comfort on- and off-road.

Subsequent generations, though, have made it a luxury brand within a brand while retaining ultimate 4x4 off-road ability – something the aluminium construction can only enhance by giving the car a lower centre of gravity when tackling inclines.

Land Rover says the weight saving and a re-engineering of the air suspension have enhanced the car's on-road ability; the luxurious ride is retained, but the car now delivers flatter, more confident, cornering.

But while a revolution was taking place in construction, the new Range Rover styling is deliberately evolutionary – there are no great surprises about the way it looks.

A revamped version of Land Rover's Terrain Response system is also retained to automatically assess current driving conditions and terrain and select the most suitable vehicle settings.

And while the car's passengers will ride in luxury, the new Range Rover has already done the hard yards to ensure durability and reliability; development vehicles covered millions of miles of arduous tests in more than 20 countries, exposed to extremes of climate and road surfaces.

Order books are now open and customers have the choice of a supercharged V8 petrol engine or TDV6 and TDV8 diesel engines, with delivery expected in early 2013.

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PARALYMPICS

Stars of the road set for Brands Hatch showdown as Games begin

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

THE wait is almost over as Kent gets ready to welcome the Paralympics.

The famous Brands Hatch circuit will be awash with the world's best paralympic cyclists battling it out for 32 medals from Wednesday to Saturday this coming week.

As seen at the Olympics, Great Britain has an abundance of talent to call upon in this sport, and they cemented their medal credentials last year picking up ten medals at the 2011 World Road Cycling Championships, including two gold, two silver and six bronze.

So expectations to see Brits on the podium will be high from those in the near sell-out crowds expected at the track. They'll also be cheered on by hundreds lining the streets on the course, which is 8km long and split evenly between the motor circuit and the surrounding roads.

There are three different types of competition taking place, including the men's and women's road races, time trials and team relays.

The road races and team relays are straight finals, with all the competitors starting together with the first three over the line winning medals.

The team relay events will be conducted as mass start events on a looped course, with each team consisting of three riders. The race will be six laps long, with each rider doing two laps.

In the time trials athletes start at 60-second intervals, with the one to complete the course the fastest the winner.

The course itself will be a challenging one with approximately 25 per cent of it being uphill, with gradients of no more than six per cent. There are also plenty of twists and turns, and plenty of wide areas to allow for bunch sprints such as in the finishing straight.

There are a number of races for each of the three disciplines with each race classified on the severity of the disability of the athlete as follows:

•B indicates a tandem pairing.
•H1-H4 indicates athletes using hand cycles.
•T1-T2 indicates athletes using a tricycle.
•C1-C5 indicates athletes using a bicycle with modifications.

If you're not able to make it to the event it will be shown live on Channel 4 as well as on its website www.paralympics.channel4.com

Pictures: ONEDITION/LOCOG

PARALYMPIC CYCLISTS AIMING FOR TRACK SUCCESS...

Karen Darke

Women's Individual H 1-2 Time Trial
Women's Individual H 1-3 Road Race



KAREN Darke who will be making her Paralympic debut this week has an extraordinary thirst for adventure.

As a teenager she climbed Mont Blanc, the Matterhorn and won a Swiss mountain marathon before she became paralysed from the chest down after falling 10m in a rock climbing accident.

Since then the geologist has taken part in numerous challenges around the world, starting off with the Great North Run and the London Marathon before taking it up a notch to bike over the Himalayas in 1997.

Three years later she hand-cycled the length of Japan, then kayaked around Alaska in 2003, skiied across Greenland in 2006, circumnavigated Corsica by sea kayak in 2006, competed in the half Iron Man and climbed El Capitan in 2007. She was also crowned World Para-Triathlon Champion in 2009.

She decided she wanted to compete in the London Games after watching the Beijing Paralympics four years ago.

The 31-year-old, from Halifax, claimed her first medal a year later with a Bronze medal in the Para-Cycling World Cup which cemented her place in the British Para-Cycling team for 2010.

Last year she won two Silver medals at Para-Cycling World Cup in Australia, in both the H2 road race and time trial events.

Next year she is hoping to become the first paraplegic to reach the South Pole as the only disabled person in a team of four, but she insists it is no distraction to her hopes for a medal this week.

Rachel Morris

Women's Individual H 1-3 Road Race



AN ANKLE injury on Rachel Morris' 17th birthday triggered the onset of an extremely rare and painful disease.

Complex Regional Pain Syndrome rejects the body's ability to recover from injury, and led to her having her left leg amputated above her knee in 2003. The disease spread to her right leg forcing a second amputation.

The 33-year-old chose to move from sailing to handcycling with great success in 2007. She became the double World Champion that year in the time trial and road race competitions which paved the way for Paralympic funding that helped her reach Gold in Beijing a year later.

She had a phenomenal year in 2010, successfully defending her titles in the road race and time trial at the Para-Cycling World Championships in Canada, a feat she repeated in 2011 when the championships took place in Australia.

She won the last title despite sliding off a wet road while training. As a result she suffered a dislocated shoulder.

It has also not been the best preparation for the Paralympics as she was hit by a car while training in early July. Not only has she had to recover, but she needed a new handcycle which had to be shipped over from America. Despite that, she is not ruling out a podium place this week.

Mark Colbourne

Men's Individual C 1 Time Trial
Men's Individual C 1-3 Road Race



FROM a young age sport has been a big part of Mark Colbourne's life.

The Welshman represented his country in volleyball after graduating and played in three British Championships in the 1990s.

It wasn't just mainstream sports that appealed to him and he took up rock climbing and paragliding, while also cycling in triathlons. But three years ago he had to make an emergency landing while paragliding near Swansea when his wing collapsed and folded in front of him.

He fell to the ground from 40ft suffering a broken back and serious lower leg paralysis. He went through five months of intense physiotherapy as he learnt to walk again with walking aids.

The 42-year-old carried on his passion for sport, training and competing in the Welsh indoor adaptive rowing championships. He then went on to try cycling in September 2009 when he won two Gold medals at the Wales GB - watching on were Great Britain coaches who spotted his talent.

Little more than two years after his accident he was quick enough to be selected in the C1 category for the GB para-cycling team - and he didn't disappoint, winning five medals in the time trials and road races in the summer of 2011.

He went on to race at the Para-Cycling Road World Championships where he won the silver medal in the time trial, as well as a fourth place in the road race. He also took to the velodrome for the first time at the 2012 Para-Cycling Track World Championships claiming a gold and silver in the process.

CRICKET

Salary-capping system to save drain of talent from Kent



Picture: ADY KERRY

TALKS: Jamie Clifford is tying down Kent's talent

HOPES are high that Kent's young stars will stay at the St Lawrence ground for the foreseeable future, according to chief executive Jamie Clifford.

There are a number of players whose contracts are coming to an end including experienced quintet Brendan Nash, Darren Stevens, Geraint Jones, James Tredwell and Ben Harmison.

Youngsters Sam Northeast, Chris Piesley, Fabian Cowdrey, Ben Kemp and Ashley Shaw's contracts are also up at the end of this season.

Clifford believes the days of counties being drained of talent by those with bigger spending power are gone thanks to the new salary capping system.

"I think in the past it's been difficult, but now with a salary cap in place I'm relatively comfortable with our ability to compete in the market," he said. "I think we have a clear idea of what we are trying to do, which helps.

"Perhaps in the past we were concerned, in the pre-salary cap days. Some counties could outbid everybody and there was a talent drain away from some of the counties who couldn't compete.

"We are talking about Surrey and those counties who have got test match cricket and a much bigger turnover. The cap has had the desired affect and constrained how far they can go to outbid others."

He also pointed to the fact that players are more likely to stay if they're happy, as they are at Kent: "We have gone well this year, the environment is very good, there is a good dressing room, everybody is upbeat.

"Players are a lot happier with how they are progressing, that changes a lot in their desire to move. If they are content and feel they are progressing they are less likely to want to move - that's where we are at the moment."

He said announcements would be made before the end of the season.

"The negotiations are ongoing, some are nearing completion and others have got a way to go," he said. "I would anticipate before the end of the season announcing where everybody has got to."

FOOTBALL

Bees chief backs Allen to shine in right environment

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

MARTIN Allen and Barnet: two footballing faculties of the lower leagues whose recent histories are entwined.

Allen can lay claim to be the hero and the villain at Underhill, where he takes his high-flying Gills next Saturday. It will be the first time back there since keeping up the now traditional last-day survival for the Bees in a three-game rescue mission at the end of the season.

He triumphed in adversity then as he did in his first spell there, building a team from scratch to take them to within sight of promotion from the Conference in 2004 before Brentford came calling, something that happened again in March last year in his second spell as he jumped ship after three games for Notts County.

He initially started as Peter Shreeve's assistant in 2002, but took over a year later in March. The following season he guided them to the play-off places before leaving for the Bees two months before the end of the season.

It was Paul Fairclough who took over then to take them to a play-off semi final defeat, and it was he who brought him back last season to fight the ultimate fire of survival.

"He's held with affection by some supporters, and probably with others not so much affection," said the now director of football at Barnet.

"I brought him back in at the end of the season because I think Martin is arguably probably the best firefighter in the business.

"I believe Martin is very good at bringing things together and forging a team spirit. He's got a reputation of moving about, sometimes for reasons beyond his control and often out of his hands. Personally I would like to see him get settled and show everyone what he can do."

Allen will also come face to face with two men who might have been in his squad this season. Midfielder Curtis Weston decided to move on from Priestfield before Allen made a decision on whether to offer him a new contract, while former captain, full-back Barry Fuller, played a part in pre-season but wasn't offered a new deal. Former Gills assistant Mark Robson is also their new boss.



MOTIVATOR: Martin Allen has a track record for instilling team spirit at Barnet, says Paul Fairclough

FOOTBALL

Playing for country is the best feeling for Ebbsfleet's Edwards

EBBSFLEET United's Preston Edwards is hoping for a starting spot against Belgium after earning a call-up for the England C team.

This week's news was an early birthday present for Edwards who turns 23 next week.

The former Milwall apprentice has four caps to his name after making his debut last May.

It was a baptism of fire as he picked up a man of the match award in the final of the International Challenge trophy when England lost 1-0 to Portugal at Northampton's Sixfields Stadium.

Now he has targeted a place in Paul Fairclough's starting 11 ahead of 18-year-old Stockport County keeper Ian Ormson.

"I have represented my country through most of the age groups. It's nice to get recognised - representing your country is the best feeling in the world," he said. "You get goose bumps listening to the national anthem.

"There are a few new faces in the squad every time. If you've not performed you're not going to get in the squad. You never know who's watching, that's my mentality.



Picture: DAVE PLUMB

PICKED: Edwards in England C side

"Scouts probably go to every game so you have got to be at your best every time."

He is part of the 16-man squad for the International Challenge Trophy game in Belgium on September 12.

Edwards started his career at Milwall where he made one appearance, before a loan spell at Dover in 2009.

He then made 19 appearances for Grays Athletic before joining Ebbsfleet United a year later where he's made 68 appearances since 2010.

MOTORSPORT

Shakey meets soap stars after undergoing surgery

SHANE Byrne has had an unexpected treat to help him with his recovery from shoulder surgery suffered in the British Superbike Championship at Cadwell Park.

The Sheppey rider went on a tour of the Eastenders set with his wife Petra where he met stars of the show. It comes after the 35-year-old suffered ligament damage to his shoulder during practice at Cadwell last weekend, which has put him out of action for two weeks.

"We both follow Eastenders avidly and seeing it all in real life was just great," he said. "As soon as we arrived on the set we saw Max Branning, then we also got to have a chat with Sharon and Alfie; they were all top people and even asked me about my injury as I had my arm in the sling.

"They were filming on certain areas of the set but it was cool to see the Queen Vic and then get behind the bar.

"I had told Alfie when we met him I was going to take over the pub when I got there. The funny thing was I even sat on Kat Moon's bed but I can confirm that I'm not really her secret lover."



Picture: JON JESSOP PHOTOGRAPHY

TOUR: Byrne enjoys Eastenders set

• Tommy Hill claimed a superb double at Cadwell to extend his lead in the standings ahead of the Showdown rides. He said: "We knew we had a good pace and our aim was to get those six podium credits and that is what we did so it's onwards and upwards for Donnington Park."

PARALYMPICS



CONFIDENT: Brown thinks GB can go to the top

Captain Brown not writing anyone off in hunt for Gold medal

STEVE Brown is a man on a mission for a medal.

The captain of ParalympicGB's wheelchair rugby team is making his first appearance at the Games having missed out on selection for the Beijing Games four years ago.

The 31-year-old, who was born in Chatham, and now lives in Sittingbourne, is confident his side can bring home the top prize in the tournament, which starts on Wednesday.

"We're currently fifth in the world, but I definitely think we can surpass our ranking," said the Kent Crusaders player.

"I'm hoping for a medal and I think we can get one. But there are seven other teams who want to stop us. I'm not writing anyone off."

Brown picked out the United States and Australia – ranked first and third in the world respectively – as favourites. Canada, world number two, are also likely to be on the hunt.

Britain, who have finished in fourth place at the last two Games, open their campaign against USA, who are world and Paralympic champions.

Brown said: "We've been training for four years to get to this point and we have prepared as best we can in that time, but even now we still have another week, there's always time to improve."

Brown missed out on selection for Beijing and the 2010 World Championships but was part of the side that won European silver in 2011.

He said of taking over the captaincy: "It's actually been really easy for me. The team are such a well-balanced group, none of the squad need to be kept in line. I'm really fortunate to captain the team while it's at its best."

Brown took up wheelchair rugby in 2006 a year after falling off a balcony, as he explains: "I fell off a balcony in Germany, only about 12 feet from the ground, and landed on my bottom with such force that I broke my neck from the impact. I was 24 at the time and stayed in hospital over there for three weeks before being brought back to Stoke Mandeville.

"After the accident I was quite down and went and watched a game of wheelchair rugby and saw people in the same position as me, some with far worse injuries.

"They were playing professionally and living as real athletes and it gave me a direction, I decided it was the sport for me."



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